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Letter dated 18 June 2008 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities reflecting its position on the recommendations contained in the eighth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team (S/2008/324). I would appreciate it if the report could be circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Jan **Grauls**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities

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Recommendations contained in the eighth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team: position of the Committee

I. Introduction

1. The eighth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team was submitted to the Security Council Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions Committee on 31 March 2008 in accordance with Security Council resolution 1735 (2006), annex II, paragraph (c). The report was transmitted to the Council on 13 May 2008 and subsequently issued as document S/2008/324.[1]

2. After a thorough consideration of all 34 recommendations contained in the report of the Monitoring Team, the Committee wishes to highlight to the Security Council those recommendations that it believes to be of particular relevance for the Council in its consideration of ways to strengthen the existing sanctions regime, and to convey to all Member States those recommendations that the Committee considers could be of particular benefit in their implementation efforts.[2]

II. Consolidated List

3. **Lack of identifiers.** The Committee shares the concerns expressed by the Monitoring Team regarding entries on the List that lack sufficient identifying information and expresses its determination to continue to encourage States, particularly the designating States, to submit additional identifying and other information on listed individuals and entities. The review pursuant to paragraph 6 (i) of the Committee's guidelines is viewed as a mechanism that could also assist in obtaining additional information for such entries. Furthermore, the Committee supports the recommendation that the Monitoring Team submit to the Committee, at set periods, any information on listed individuals and entities it has obtained from publicly available official sources, or with the help of United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, with their agreement. In such cases, the Monitoring Team will identify the source of each piece of new information when presenting it for the Committee's approval (paras. 26 and 27).[3]

4. **Format of the Consolidated List.** The Committee agrees in principle with the recommendation that the presentation of the List could be further enhanced by improving its format. To this end, the Committee has requested the Monitoring Team to prepare a sample of a new format for the List for its consideration (para. 36).

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[1] Available at http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/monitoringteam.shtml.

[2] This is the sixth written report of the Committee to the Security Council on the Monitoring Team's reports. Earlier reports of the Monitoring Team and reports on the Committee's position on the recommendations can be found on the Committee's website (http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/index.shtml).

[3] Such references are to the relevant paragraph(s) of the eighth report of the Monitoring Team (S/2008/324).

5. **Public statements of case.** The Committee agrees in principle with the recommendation that publicly releasable statements of case, when provided by the designating State(s), could be used by the Committee to supplement information on its website in order to increase transparency. In this connection, the Secretariat has been asked, as a first step, to compile a list of submissions for listing that include such a publicly releasable portion of the statement of case. The Committee also agrees with the recommendation that Member States submit additional information for statements of case that may be published on the website in the same way as States submit additional identifying information for entries in the List. The Committee has also agreed to forward to the Security Council the recommendation suggesting that the Council urge States, when submitting names for listing, to specify portions of the statement of case that may be disclosed. At the same time, the Committee is of the view that designating States should be encouraged to identify or to submit to the Committee the publicly releasable portion(s) of the original statement of case provided for names already on the List. The Committee intends to further study all the aspects of these recommendations with a view to examining practical ways of implementing them (paras. 44 and 45).

6. **Photographs.** The Committee acknowledges that it would be useful for identification purposes to have photographs of listed individuals and make them publicly available, but believes that the proposals of the Monitoring Team in this regard require further study, with a focus on concrete modalities. The photographs of listed individuals already available on 76 INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council special notices might be useful to this end. The Committee will examine this matter further in connection with the possible review of the format of the List (paras. 30 and 65).

7. **Reportedly deceased listed individuals.** The Committee agrees in principle with the recommendation that the names of listed individuals identified as deceased should be reviewed regularly and expresses its readiness to revisit this issue, possibly during the evaluation of the review pursuant to paragraph 6 (i) of its guidelines in the third quarter of 2008 (paras. 31 and 32).

8. **Review pursuant to paragraph 6 (i) of the Committee's guidelines.** As the 2008 edition is currently in preparation, the Committee has agreed to consider the Monitoring Team's recommendations when evaluating the mechanism referred to in paragraph 6 (i) of the guidelines in the third quarter of 2008 (para. 33).

9. **Distribution of the Consolidated List.** While acknowledging its responsibility to ensure that the List and its updates are communicated to Member States in a way that allows for effective implementation of the sanctions measures and that the official communication of all updates to Member States continues to be through notes verbales, the Committee endorses the recommendation to encourage States to allow the implementation of updates based on e-mails, soft-copy notices or its website postings. To this end, and with a view to updating the e-mail list maintained by the secretariat, the Committee invites States to provide relevant e-mail addresses — of representatives in New York as well as in capitals — to the Committee's secretariat[4] in order to be immediately informed of any update to the List. To ensure that notifications of new listings are not unduly delayed, the Committee also endorses

[4] The e-mail address of the secretariat is SC-1267-Committee@un.org.

the recommendation to explore the possibility of transmitting the List to States through local United Nations offices (para. 35).

III. Implementation of the sanctions

10. **Handling requests for information from Member States.** The Committee agrees that assistance to States requesting additional information on listed individuals for identification and thus implementation purposes is important and that proper follow-up is required to make sure that the information sought is provided. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that, as a follow-up to the Monitoring Team's seventh report, the secretariat has compiled a list of all communications from States requesting additional information (para. 46).

11. **Criminal misuse of the Internet.** The Committee recognizes that the criminal misuse of the Internet to provide support for terrorism is a problem and shares the concern expressed by a number of States and by the Monitoring Team. This issue should therefore be brought to the Security Council for its consideration. The Committee agrees that the recommendation to add those media outlets and the main individuals behind them that provide Internet hosting or related services used for the support of Al-Qaida and those associated with it to the Consolidated List warrants further consideration. The Committee has taken note with interest of the issue of taking appropriate legal and practical measures to prevent the use of the Internet in ways that violate the sanctions measures (paras. 14 and 15). As far as the enforcement of the arms embargo in the virtual world is concerned, the Committee has also taken note of this issue with interest, as activities to effect the sale, supply or transfer of technical advice, assistance or training related to military activities for the benefit of those on the List, and military or paramilitary recruitment and the provision of human resources to listed entities, do take place over the Internet (para. 80).

IV. Assets freeze

12. **Scope of the assets freeze.** The Committee notes the need to further clarify the exact scope of the assets freeze in the context of the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime and that further guidance from the Security Council might be required in this regard (para. 55).

13. **Non-binding, non-exhaustive list of targeted assets.** The Committee supports the recommendation that guidance be made available to Member States and the private sector on how to freeze different kinds of assets, and on dealing with property in which the listed party has only an interest or partial ownership. While stressing that such guidance should not place any additional obligation on States, the Committee has requested the Monitoring Team to prepare, in cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate so as to avoid duplication, a short paper on the issue for its consideration (para. 49).

14. **Risk of swapping interests in frozen funds for goods or services.** The Committee shares the concerns expressed by the Monitoring Team that submissions for exemptions to the assets freeze pursuant to paragraphs 1 (a) and 1 (b) of resolution 1452 (2002) could carry the danger that the amounts stated are inflated

through an undisclosed arrangement between the supplier and the listed party and that in some cases goods or services are provided before the State concerned has decided whether it is appropriate to release frozen assets to pay for them. In this context, the Committee, while supporting the intended objectives of these recommendations, is of the view that no action should be decided, either by the Council or by the Committee, that would add any new obligation on States or additional requirement for the granting of humanitarian exemptions (paras. 50 and 51).

15. **Treatment of incoming funds in favour of listed parties.** The Committee endorses the recommendation that the Security Council consider widening the scope of paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b) of resolution 1452 (2002) to allow all incoming payments in favour of listed parties to be credited to their frozen accounts (para. 53).

16. **Use of fraudulent identities to finance terrorism.** As obtaining credit under a false identity is also a common fraud used by associates of Al-Qaida and/or the Taliban, the Committee agrees with the recommendation to encourage States to share with the private sector, to the extent possible, information on their national databases relating to stolen, lost and counterfeit identity documents and, if a listed party is found to be using a false identity, to submit any such information to the Committee (para. 59).

V. Travel ban

17. **Travel documents.** The Committee fully subscribes to the recommendation to urge States to provide, for inclusion on the List, the details of any valid travel document that may have been issued to a listed individual (para. 63). Moreover, the Committee supports the recommendation that the Council encourage States to ensure that stolen, lost, fraudulent, falsified or counterfeit travel documents are not only invalidated, but also removed from circulation when found, and returned to the appropriate authorities of the State identified as issuer (para. 72).

18. **Incorporation of changes to the Consolidated List in national databases and watch lists.** As recommended by the Monitoring Team, the Committee encourages States to ensure that their internal procedures allow for the immediate incorporation of changes to the Consolidated List in their relevant national databases and watch lists and to notify such changes to border posts as soon as practicable. At the same time, the Committee acknowledges that it remains its proper responsibility to ensure that changes are communicated to Member States in a way that allows for effective implementation of the sanctions measures (para. 64).

19. **Refusal of entry or transit and change of location of listed individuals.** The Committee endorses the recommendation to invite Member States to inform it of cases in which an individual on the List has been refused entry into or transit through their territory or when a listed individual changes location as a result of the permitted exceptions to the travel ban, such as return to State of nationality or movement in support of a judicial process, with a view to including such information on the Consolidated List. If a State is unable to include information on the List because it considers it to be confidential, such information could be included in the restricted version of the INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council special notice (para. 70).

VI. Arms embargo

20. **Scope of the arms embargo.** The Committee agrees in principle with the recommendation to seek ways to ensure that other international efforts on arms control recognize the existence of the provisions of the Al-Qaida and Taliban arms embargo. At the same time, the Committee has concluded that the recommendation requires further consideration with regard to possible action and its implementation modalities (para. 74). However, the Committee also agrees in principle that it might be appropriate to point out to Member States that improved control of the trafficking of arms by air would also strengthen the implementation and effectiveness of the arms embargo.

21. **Military training and recruitment as part of the arms embargo.** While recognizing the complexity of this issue, the Committee sees merit in the recommendations addressed to the Security Council to explicitly prohibit the provision of human resources to listed entities (para. 78) as well as to explicitly require States to prevent listed individuals and entities from having access to, establishing or maintaining military or terrorist training facilities inside their borders (para. 79).

22. **Military command and control networks and the arms embargo.** The Committee agrees with the Monitoring Team that tangible means of communications are crucial for Al-Qaida and Taliban terrorist activities and has therefore considered with interest the recommendation addressed to the Security Council to emphasize the need for States to prevent their nationals from engaging in the supply, sale, transfer or other provision of military command and control capabilities to Al-Qaida, the Taliban and their listed associates, whether through the Internet or by other means (para. 83).

VII. Cooperation with international and regional organizations

23. **Common strategy with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the experts supporting the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).** The Committee endorses the recommendation that a common strategy for cooperation with international and regional organizations be developed jointly with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the experts supporting the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and requested the Monitoring Team, after discussion with the two other expert groups, as was done in respect of the common strategy on non- and late-reporting States, to outline and submit for the three Committees' consideration such a strategy (paras. 94 and 95).

VIII. Member State reporting

24. **Reports pursuant to resolution 1455 (2003).** The Committee agrees in principle with the recommendation that the Committee approach each of the remaining 38 States[5] that have yet to submit reports to the Committee pursuant to Security Council resolution 1455 (2003) with the understanding that any possible

[5] Madagascar has submitted its report since the transmission of the eighth report of the Monitoring Team.

meetings with those States or their regional or subregional groupings would take place in New York. For this purpose, the Monitoring Team was requested to prepare, for the Committee's consideration, concrete proposals for the implementation of this recommendation (para. 108).

IX. Committee's website

25. **Useful tool for the implementation of sanctions.** The Committee agrees with the recommendation that Member States be encouraged to advise their officials and relevant private sector entities of the assistance offered by the Committee's website across a range of issues related to the implementation of the sanctions measures (para. 38). The recommendations outlined below might be useful in this regard.

26. **One-page index.** The Committee supports the recommendation to advertise the changes to its website and the key documents it contains in a single-page format or as a one-page index for ease of reference by States and international and regional organizations on the basis of the proposal made by the Monitoring Team in annex II to its report (para. 112). In addition, the Monitoring Team was requested to explore, together with the Secretariat, ways of further improving the user-friendliness of the Committee's website — for example, by introducing RSS-feeds, a map of the website and an internal search function — and to submit its final proposal to the Committee for approval.

27. **Hit counter.** The Committee has requested the Monitoring Team to explore the technical modalities involved in introducing a tool to track the use of its website and ensure that it is fulfilling its intended purpose (para. 112).

X. Conclusion

28. The Committee would like to express its appreciation to the Monitoring Team for its eighth report and the valuable recommendations contained therein. In the present report to the Security Council, the Committee has highlighted some of those recommendations made by the Monitoring Team that it deems to be of particular relevance for the implementation of the sanctions regime.

29. The Committee believes that several recommendations made by the Monitoring Team merit the consideration of the Security Council in the light of its upcoming consideration of how to strengthen the sanctions regime and the expected adoption of a new resolution by the end of June 2008.

30. For its part, the Committee is committed to follow up on the recommendations that it supports. While some of these recommendations are clearly defined and can be quite quickly translated into concrete actions, others will require further conceptual development to be considered jointly with the Monitoring Team. In this regard, the Committee looks forward to receiving further input from the Monitoring Team with a view to further assisting Member States in their implementation of the measures decided by the Security Council.

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Additional report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Uganda

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to the request of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict for an update on the implementation of the recommendation contained in paragraph 11 of its conclusions (S/AC.51/2007/12) issued pursuant to my report of 7 May 2007 on children and armed conflict in Uganda (S/2007/260). In those conclusions, the Working Group recommended that my Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)-affected areas transmit the message of the Chairman of the Working Group to the head of the LRA delegation to the Juba peace talks.

The report also highlights recent incidents of cross-border recruitment and use of children from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and southern Sudan by LRA, and makes recommendations.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in response to the request of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict for an update on the implementation of the recommendation contained in paragraph 11 of its conclusions (S/AC.51/2007/12) issued pursuant to my report of 7 May 2007 on children and armed conflict in Uganda (S/2007/260).

2. In its conclusions, the Working Group requested that my Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)-affected areas, former President of Mozambique Joaquim Chissano, transmit to the head of the LRA delegation to the Juba peace talks the message of the Chairman of the Working Group:

(a) Calling the attention of the head of the LRA delegation to the Juba peace talks to the fact that the Security Council has received my report on children and armed conflict in Uganda (S/2007/260), underlining the absence of any concrete signs regarding the release of children associated with LRA;

(b) Strongly condemning the continuous recruitment and use of child soldiers and all other violations and abuses committed by LRA;

(c) Noting the International Criminal Court indictments against members of the LRA leadership on charges of, among other things, the enlistment of children through abduction, as a war crime;

(d) Strongly reaffirming that the release of children cannot be made dependent upon the conclusion of a peace agreement;

(e) Urging LRA to take immediate steps to release children associated with its forces; to immediately engage in transparent procedures with the United Nations Children's Fund for verification of the demobilization of all children; to provide humanitarian personnel unimpeded access to populations in need; and to ensure that specific provisions for children are included by the parties at all steps of the negotiations, bearing in mind the importance of holding accountable perpetrators of violations and abuses committed against children;

(f) Strongly urging LRA to respond positively to the message and to take serious follow-up actions.

II. Actions taken

3. Pursuant to the above, the Special Envoy for the LRA-affected areas transmitted the message of the Chairman of the Security Council Working Group to the leader of the LRA delegation on 24 August 2007. He was assured that the delegation would convey the message to the leader of LRA, Joseph Kony.

4. However, the LRA delegation had earlier stated that LRA had released all children and women abducted or forcibly conscripted some time ago and that those who remained in the bush were women and children related to LRA members. This information cannot be independently verified because of the absence of any direct contacts between the United Nations and the LRA leadership.

III. Brief update on recruitment and use of children by the Lord's Resistance Army

5. Owing to the apparent absence of LRA from Ugandan territory, there have been no recent cases of recruitment and use of Ugandan children, or other grave violations against children attributable to LRA. However, children and women are still present in the LRA ranks, and there has been no movement on their release.

6. There are reports alleging that LRA has been recruiting children from southern Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. In one case, three boys from the Sudan and the Central African Republic who escaped from LRA reported that they had been forced to work for LRA as porters. They also reported that girls were present in the ranks, and that they were regularly subjected to gender-based violence, including rape. On 23 April, authorities in Dungu, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, reported that 13 people, including 4 students, were abducted from a primary school following attacks by LRA. Similarly, on 5 June, LRA reportedly attacked a camp of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Nabanga, southern Sudan, resulting in the killing of at least 21 people, including 6 children, according to Sudanese army officials. Further discussions will be held with the United Nations Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and the Central African Republic, as appropriate, on how best to monitor and report on the grave violations committed against children by LRA, taking into account the regional cross-border dimension of this problem.

7. These allegations are being reported while the peace talks between LRA and the Government of Uganda are stalled, notably because of the refusal by the LRA leader, Joseph Kony, to sign the final peace agreement on 10 April 2008. The agreement on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, signed by the two parties in February 2008 as part of the Juba peace talks, specifically provides that "the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups is a violation of children's rights". In particular, LRA resolved to "ensure the earliest release and repatriation to Uganda of pregnant and lactating women along with all children under 18 years of age". However, in a communiqué issued on 11 April 2008, Joseph Kony declared all previous peace agreements null and void.

IV. Recommendations

8. The Lord's Resistance Army is strongly urged to provide a complete list of names and ages of the women and children remaining in its ranks for verification and to effect their immediate release.

9. The United Nations Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting in Uganda, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan, in close cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, are requested to develop a strategy for increased regional joint capability to monitor and report on cross-border recruitment and use of children by the Lord's Resistance Army.

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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in compliance with the request of the Security Council contained in the presidential statement dated 26 September 2001 (S/PRST/2001/25), in which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed of the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (BONUCA) in that country. The report covers the period from January to June 2008 and focuses mainly on political, security, socio-economic, humanitarian and human rights developments during that period.

II. Political situation

2. Since my previous report, dated 5 December 2007 (S/2007/697), the political situation has continued to be dominated by intensified preparations for the inclusive political dialogue aimed at ending the recurrent political and security crises in the country. The Dialogue Preparatory Committee, established by Presidential Decree of 30 November 2007, has completed its work and, on 25 April 2008, submitted its report, containing specifications on the organization of the dialogue, to President François Bozizé. In line with the Committee's recommendations, President Bozizé, on 8 June, set up a 15-member committee to help organize the dialogue, in particular by mobilizing financial and material resources.

3. Facilitated by BONUCA and the International Organization of la Francophonie, and presided by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, the Dialogue Preparatory Committee brought together the country's main political, social and rebel groups for substantive discussions on three main themes concerning (a) political and governance issues, (b) the security situation and politico-military groups, and (c) socio-economic development.

4. In its report, the Preparatory Committee recommended that the inclusive political dialogue be held in Bangui, should security be assured and judicial guarantees accorded to allow certain participants to travel to that city without fear of

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being detained. It further recommended a total number of 150 participants and a maximum duration of 17 days for the dialogue itself.

5. The work of the Preparatory Committee has set in motion a number of reconciliatory processes. In that context, on 9 May, the Government of the Central African Republic concluded a peace agreement with the Armée populaire pour la restauration de la démocratie (APRD) rebel movement, which was the last of the country's three major rebel groups to sign a peace agreement with the Government. The agreement, signed in Libreville, under the auspices of President Omar Bongo Ondimba of Gabon, provides for an immediate cessation of hostilities, the cantonment of APRD fighters in their current positions, the rehabilitation of conflict-affected areas of the country and the creation of security conditions for the holding of the inclusive political dialogue. It also foresees the adoption of a general amnesty law. My Special Representative in the Central African Republic, François Lonseny Fall, in his continuing efforts to facilitate preparations for the dialogue, had met with the APRD leadership in February in the north-western town of Paoua, to persuade APRD to participate in the Preparatory Committee. The signing of the agreement with APRD was the first step in the implementation of commitments undertaken by President Bozizé during the working visit of the Preparatory Committee to Libreville on 22 and 23 April. The other commitments include the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement with all the country's rebel groups and the adoption of appropriate judicial and legislative measures to facilitate the participation of all national stakeholders in the dialogue.

6. Members of the Preparatory Committee have also visited France, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Togo and the north-western town of Paoua in the Central African Republic, where Government troops and rebels have fought each other since 2005. They met with the leader of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Colonel Muammar al-Qadhafi, former President Ange-Félix Patassé, former Prime Minister Martin Ziguélé, former Defence Minister Jean-Jacques Demafouth, the leader of the Forces républicaines nouvelles, Christophe Gazambéti, the coordinator of the signatories to the Manifesto for an Inclusive Political Dialogue, Nganatoua Goungaye Wanfiyo, the leader of the Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain (FDPC), Abdoulaye Miskine, and APRD spokesman Laurent Djim Woi. President Bozizé participated in the missions to Gabon and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

7. In view of the critical role played by the subregional States and institutions as well as the Central African Republic's main external partners in contributing to the stabilization of the country, my Special Representative continued to consult closely with the Committee of External Partners, based in Bangui, and with the leadership of the subregional peacekeeping force for the Central African Republic, (Multinational Force of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (FOMUC)). He also visited Cameroon in February 2008, where he encouraged the Government to continue to play a major role in the peace process in the Central African Republic, including through the contribution of troops to FOMUC. Subsequently, in May 2008, the Government of Cameroon deployed a 120-strong contingent to Bangui as part of the Force.

8. From 4 to 6 February 2008, a three-day training workshop on dialogue and negotiation was organized in Bangui for members of the Dialogue Preparatory Committee. The workshop, facilitated by BONUCA, was led by the Mediation Support Unit of the Department of Political Affairs in the Secretariat, in cooperation

with a Swiss non-governmental organization, Swisspeace. It contributed significantly to the ability of the Preparatory Committee to work as a group in addressing matters crucial for stabilization of their country.

9. During the reporting period, BONUCA facilitated the establishment of the operations of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCAT) in that country. To that end, the Support Office facilitated the finalization of a status-of-mission agreement between MINURCAT and the Government of the Central African Republic, and provides office space and other logistical support for the deployment of a small team of MINURCAT personnel in Bangui. A joint Government, BONUCA and MINURCAT mission visited Birao in the Vakaga region on 3 May 2008.

III. Military and security situation

10. The security situation continues to be relatively stable in Bangui, despite isolated cases of criminal activity. Elsewhere in the country, in spite of localized clashes, the period under review was characterized by a decrease in the intensity of conflict between Government forces and rebel groups in the north of the country. However, acts of indiscipline and lawlessness among defence and security forces, especially in their relations with the general population, have continued to increase.

11. In order to improve discipline within the defence forces and curb impunity, the Permanent Military Tribunal in Bangui heard 24 cases in March 2008 and imposed heavy sentences against culprits. The military authorities have also recently taken measures to remove illegal checkpoints on major road networks and within Bangui.

12. The security situation has improved significantly in the north-eastern provinces of Vakaga and Bamingui-Bangoran since the deployment, in March 2008, of the European Union Force and following the peace agreement signed between the Government and the rebel group Union des forces démocratiques pour le resemblement in April 2007. There are, however, serious risks of confrontation, as the tension brewing among the various clans within UFDR has forced one of its leaders, Zacharia Damane, to temporarily relocate to the town of Bria in eastern Central African Republic.

13. A new zone of tension has emerged in the south-east of the country, where armed elements, believed to be renegades from Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), have reportedly infiltrated into that part of the Central African Republic in close proximity to their bases in southern Sudan. Despite efforts by the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) to counter the LRA infiltration, attempts that have been undermined by the operational and logistical limitations of FACA, the LRA elements are reported to have continued to operate relatively unfettered inside the Central African Republic, burning and vandalizing villages and stealing goods and property (see also paras. 30 and 31 below).

14. Furthermore, increased activities by highway bandits, *zaraguinas*, mainly in the north-western provinces of Ouham, Ouham-Pendé and Nana-Grébizi, have resulted in the emergence of self-defence vigilante groups which no longer hesitate to openly confront the bandits.

15. Another new security phenomenon is the emergence of well-armed and equipped poachers in the Vakaga and Haute-Kotto prefectures, who have reportedly

been extending their scope of criminal activities to the central and south-eastern parts of the country, with the attendant risks of confrontations with rebels and/or *zaraguinas*. On 16 April, the poachers clashed with UFDR elements in the Haute-Kotto locality of Yalinga.

16. Overall political and operational command for FOMUC is scheduled to be transferred from the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) as of 1 July, pursuant to the decision of the ECCAS Council of Ministers taken at its meeting in Libreville, on 25 and 26 February. Deployed mainly in the north-west of the country, in Bozum, Kaga-Bandoro and more recently in Paoua, FOMUC has been expanding its presence on the ground, especially with the recent arrival of an additional 120-strong contingent from Cameroon.

17. During the period under review, two separate teams of 60 elements each of the Presidential Guard were sent to South Africa and the Sudan for training under bilateral training agreements. That is in addition to the ongoing training provided to the Presidential Guard by a South African training team in Bangui and Bouar. Cadets from the Ecole spéciale de formation des officiers d'active have also received training in Gabon and South Africa.

18. Also during the period under review, BONUCA organized a month-long training course for 25 immigration personnel. The Support Office is preparing other training workshops for the police and gendarmerie focusing on investigation techniques and professional conduct. Moreover, it provided technical support in the drafting of a law on the special status of police personnel in the Central African Republic. The law was adopted by the National Assembly on 6 May 2008.

IV. Socio-economic and financial situation

19. Various socio-professional groups, in particular public sector workers and university lecturers, continued to organize protracted labour strikes during the reporting period, complaining mainly about their unpaid salary arrears.

20. In part because of its inability to address the grievances of the striking workers, the Government of Prime Minister Élie Doté resigned on 18 January 2008, following the threat of a motion of no confidence against it in the National Assembly. Prime Minister Doté was subsequently replaced on 22 January 2008 by Faustin-Archange Touadera, the Dean of the University of Bangui, a technocrat with no prior political experience. The new Prime Minister has paid three months of salary arrears, but most of the other demands of the unions are yet to be met.

21. In spite of the grim crisis, the country's overall economic prospects continued to improve, recording steady growth of around 4.2 per cent for 2007. That increase is attributable to domestic consumer dynamism engendered by the increased availability of household income resulting from more regular payment of salaries to civil servants and State employees.

22. Prices remained generally stable, with an annual inflation rate of less than 1 per cent over 2007. Price stabilization came in the wake of a relatively high inflation rate in 2006. The brighter economic picture was also helped by the payment of arrears to cotton farmers and by the revival of activities in secondary and tertiary business sectors. Public revenue increased by over 14 per cent following

reforms to streamline the revenue collection. As a result, the State, in 2007, mobilized revenue amounting to US$ 199 million, compared to $174.8 million in 2006.

23. The World Bank and the African Development Bank have launched a midterm review of their biennial programmes with the Government, which should usher in the creation of a new support programme for the biennium 2010-2011. In the same vein, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has selected the Central African Republic as one of the beneficiaries of its special assistance programme for conflict-affected countries. In that regard and in consonance with its new intervention strategy in the country, IFC intends to open an office in Bangui with a view to facilitating direct investments.

24. The improving economy has also enabled the Government to reduce its budgetary deficit, which is expected to drop to $38.8 million in 2008. During the same period, inflation is expected to be contained at less than 3 per cent, slightly higher than in 2007. Such projections would, to a large extent, depend on the implementation of the poverty reduction strategy paper, adopted in September 2007 by the Government and its development partners, and the materialization of donor pledges, which are critical factors for the recovery of the national economy and for the support of the Central African authorities to pursue ongoing reforms with a view to reaching decision point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative by September 2009.

25. On 8 January, I announced the eligibility of the Central African Republic to benefit from the Peacebuilding Fund. In that context, the United Nations assisted national authorities in developing a priority plan, especially during visits to Bangui in May 2008 by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, Carolyn McAskie, and members of her staff, who discussed the Fund's assistance with the President, Prime Minister and other stakeholders.

V. Humanitarian situation and operational activities in support of development

26. The majority of the population in north-western and north-eastern Central African Republic continue to live in fear and insecurity owing to the activities of Government armed forces, rebel groups and criminal gangs. Crime has also become a major impediment to social and economic stability, engendering massive population displacements and inhibiting the free movement of persons and humanitarian operations.

27. The regions of Bouar, Bozoum, Baboua, Baoro and Bocaranga in the north-west and Kabo in the north-centre remain the most affected by the activities of *zaraguinas*, with most of the local population fleeing their villages to seek refuge in urban areas. It is estimated that a third of some 100,000 refugees and internally displaced persons have fled their homes owing to organized banditry rather than political conflict between the Government and rebel groups.

28. Humanitarian access largely hinges on the nature of relations between the Government and rebel groups. Access improved after the Government signed an agreement with APRD, but humanitarian assistance had to be suspended on at least

two occasions in April, when clashes erupted between Government forces and APRD elements around the localities of Paoua and Ndim.

29. Approximately 14,000 new refugees were reported during the period under review, with most of them registered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Maya, in the south of Chad. Many of them were said to be fleeing atrocities, including summary executions and the burning of villages by armed groups. Clashes that reportedly erupted in April between feuding factions of UFDR triggered further population displacements between the Gordil, Boromata and Tiringoulou localities. On 10 March 2008, a woman accompanying her child in an ambulance operated by the humanitarian group, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF-Holland), was shot and killed. That resulted in a countrywide suspension of mobile clinics by all branches of the group.

30. Following violent attacks against the relatively peaceful south-eastern region in February and early March 2008, reportedly by LRA infiltrators, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs organized a joint assessment mission from 22 to 25 March, with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), BONUCA and the Department of Safety and Security security and protection officers. The mission assessed the security and human rights situation on the ground as well as the status of protection of civilians.

31. The mission reported that hundreds of houses and granaries had been looted, including two health-care posts. Villagers, including young boys and girls, had been abducted. According to the victims interviewed, abducted women and children were reportedly used as porters, labourers, soldiers and, in the case of girls, sex slaves. The United Nations joint mission recommended urgent concerted efforts by all actors, including United Nations agencies and the Government, to prevent further human rights abuses, especially against women and children.

32. The plight of children caught up in the country's recurrent conflicts is disturbing. In that context, my Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict visited the Central African Republic from 27 to 31 May to discuss the issue with the Government and the APRD and UFDR leaders. Following those meetings, APRD and UFDR agreed to release all children participating in their movements for eventual reintegration in communities.

33. Despite the growing needs, funding for humanitarian actions in the Central African Republic remains a major concern, with response to the consolidated appeal process standing at only 31 per cent. Programmes in agriculture, education, shelter and non-food items, health, water and sanitation and protection against human rights violations, are seriously underfunded.

34. In the area of governance and crisis prevention, the United Nations Development Programme supported the Government in organizing a national seminar on security sector reform in Bangui from 14 to 17 April. The seminar, which was based on new Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development criteria on security sector reform, was the first of its kind organized in Africa. It brought together 150 participants from security services, the justice sector, the Government, the National Assembly, civil society and international partners, and resulted in the formulation of a two-year integrated action plan of concrete measures which the Government has undertaken to implement, with support from its bilateral and international partners.

35. In the area of food security, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations implemented a market gardening programme which significantly improved the nutritional quality of foodstuffs consumed by segments of the population, especially in conflict-affected areas. Meanwhile, plans are afoot to distribute about 700 tons of seeds for food crops to target populations in time for the 2008 farming season. Apart from its activities in conflict zones, the World Food Programme provided food support to orphans and vulnerable children as well as to persons affected by HIV/AIDS.

36. In the health sector, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund provided support to the authorities to deal with outbreaks of meningitis in the Kaga-Bandoro sub-prefecture, yellow fever in Bozoum, in the Ouham-Pendé prefecture, and an isolated case of wild polio in Bangui. Those organizations also jointly sponsored national campaigns against maternal and neonatal tetanus, and launched a national preventive campaign against poliomyelitis. They also aided the Public Health Ministry in the organization of a forum on access to health care for pregnant women and children.

37. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNICEF also provided assistance in the education sector, including support under the UNESCO Fast-Track Initiative, for vital educational reforms. UNICEF distributed textbooks and other educational supplies in the north of the country and trained 256 teachers in Ndélé, Birao and Bria in preparation for the reopening of schools in those areas, formerly severely affected by violent conflicts.

38. BONUCA, in partnership with a local radio station, Radio Ndeke Luka, continued to provide civic education training, promoting the ideals of peace. That effort is in addition to the monthly radio programme highlighting the main activities of the mission. BONUCA also provided financial support for the organization of a refresher training course for 20 Government journalists and reporters to enhance the quality of service delivery. In addition, it has been working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and National Reconciliation in promoting democratic values and fundamental rights and freedoms.

VI. Human rights situation

39. The overall human rights situation during the reporting period continued to be a source of concern because of numerous violations, including violations of the right to life, physical integrity and due process. That situation is further compounded by the fragile security situation owing, in particular, to the activities of *zaraguinas*.

40. Reports continued to be received of violations perpetrated by defence and security forces during operations to deal with attacks by armed groups. Conflict-ridden areas, such as Ouham and Ouham-Pendé prefectures, are characterized by the absence of the rule of law, with constant reports of the use of excessive force by Government armed forces, resulting in the deaths of innocent civilians. While Government forces have ceased burning villages in the north-west and centre-west, reports still persist of some elements of the Presidential Guard resorting to summary executions or arbitrary arrests to deal with persons suspected of being sympathetic to the rebellion or highway bandits. All those crimes remain unpunished owing to the lack of political will to prosecute alleged perpetrators, thus perpetuating a climate of impunity.

41. Weaknesses within the judiciary, characterized by delays in judicial proceedings, have also been a contributory factor to violations of the rights to defence and fair trial. The penitentiary system is overburdened by arbitrary arrests and detentions of suspects beyond the statutory period. Sanitary conditions in prisons and other detention facilities severely contravene minimum standards, including lack of access to sufficient food and basic health care.

42. The Government's decision to authorize the visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, Philip Alston, from 31 January to 7 February 2008, was seen as a strong sign of its determination to begin to foster improvements in the human rights domain. During his visit, which included trips to the conflict-affected regions in the north, the Special Rapporteur met with various Government officials, including President Bozizé, who undertook to comply with international human rights obligations. The proposed establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the recent decision by the Government to create a free hotline service for use by victims of human rights violations have also been welcomed as evidence of the Government's drive to help improve the country's human rights record.

43. Moreover, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court visited Bangui in February within the context of ongoing investigations into alleged human rights crimes committed in the Central African Republic from 2002 to 2003. On 24 May, the former Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jean-Pierre Bemba, was arrested in Brussels and charged in connection with those crimes.

44. Although commendable efforts have been made by the Government and the civil society organizations to promote gender equality and equity and to curb sexual and gender-based violence, much remains to be done to increase women's participation in the decision-making process and to reduce violence against women. In that regard, BONUCA has carried out five gender sensitization workshops in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and National Solidarity. The mission has also facilitated two training sessions for national police and women's organizations on the provisions of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and provided gender expertise during the organization of the national seminar on security sector reform in April 2008.

VII. Staff security

45. With the improvement of the overall security situation in the country, security phases in the prefectures of Sangha-Mbaéré, Ombella-Mpoko, Kémo and Mambéré-Kadéï were reduced from III to II, while those in the prefectures of Nana-Grébizi, Haute-Kotto, Basse-Kotto, Haut-Mbomou and Bamingui-Bangoran were reduced from IV to III. No major security threats or incidents involving United Nations staff members have been reported.

VIII. Observations

46. The overall political, security and socio-economic situation in the Central African Republic continues to be fragile, characterized by widespread poverty, insecurity and a disturbing cycle of human rights violations and impunity, which

victimizes innocent civilians and leaves those responsible within the defence and security forces, rebel movements and highway bandits, free to commit even more crimes. The Government's encouraging efforts to improve respect for human rights need to be intensified and made irreversible as a first step in curbing the culture of impunity and improving the quality of life for its people.

47. I welcome the recent conclusion of the proceedings of the Dialogue Preparatory Committee and the signing of a peace agreement between the Government and the APRD rebel movement as encouraging steps towards the convening, as soon as possible, of the inclusive political dialogue. The United Nations reaffirms its strong support for the dialogue process and, to that end, I renew my appeal to all armed groups to lay down their weapons and work towards the restoration of sustainable peace and stability, which would help create an auspicious environment for enhanced international cooperation with the Central African Republic to promote economic growth and prosperity.

48. The period under review has been challenging for humanitarian workers who suffered several attacks by armed groups and highway bandits. I strongly appeal to all parties to ensure unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to populations in need and to ensure adequate protection for humanitarian personnel. I commend humanitarian agencies and personnel for their dedicated and life-saving work, often under very challenging conditions.

49. I welcome the recent decision by member States of ECCAS to give the subregional force, FOMUC, greater regional authority in a manner that could strengthen its capability and bolster its operational effectiveness on the ground in the Central African Republic. I once again commend the African Union and the European Union for their important political and financial support for FOMUC, and appeal to them and to the international community as a whole for continued and increased support to enable FOMUC to expand its security assistance projects throughout the country.

50. In the same vein, I welcome the deployment in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic of the multinational European Union Force (EUFOR), under Security Council resolution 1778 (2007), to protect civilians, in particular refugees and displaced persons. I thank the authorities in the Central African Republic for cooperating closely with United Nations and European Union officials to facilitate the deployment and functioning of MINURCAT and EUFOR in the north-eastern part of the country.

51. Recent encouraging stabilization efforts can only be sustained through the demonstration of the requisite political will by all national stakeholders, with continued international support, to stay the course towards a sustained and irreversible peacebuilding process. The United Nations will continue to support all efforts made by the people of the Central African Republic to improve conditions in their own country, aware that the primary responsibility in that regard rests with the Central African Republic itself, if real progress is to be made. I therefore encourage the Central African authorities to intensify governance and economic reforms to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the management of public resources.

52. I urge the authorities to do more to strengthen respect for the rule of law through the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

and to deal decisively with impunity. As peace cannot be sustained without justice, I also call upon the international community to provide assistance to the Central African Republic in restoring its judicial sector.

53. I wish especially to commend the multidimensional support provided to the Central African Republic by regional States and organizations, despite the economic and financial pressures they face. I also welcome the continued support provided by the international financial institutions for vital reform initiatives and to promote development, and I appeal to them to remain engaged as the country embarks on long-term governance reforms, through the dialogue process.

54. Finally, I would like to commend my Special Representative in the Central African Republic, François Lonseny Fall, and his staff, as well as other members of the United Nations country team as a whole, for their commitment and dedication in fulfilling their duties, often under challenging conditions.

United Nations S/2008/411

Security Council

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24 June 2008

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Letter dated 20 June 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), which was established on 10 June 1999 in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Following the usual consultations, I would like to inform you that I intend to appoint Lamberto Zannier (Italy) as my Special Representative and Head of UNMIK. Mr. Zannier will replace Joachim Rücker (Germany), who will complete his assignment on 20 June 2008. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Mr. Rücker for his dedication and effective leadership of UNMIK.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

08-39753 (E) 240608

United Nations S/2008/412

Security Council

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Letter dated 23 June 2008 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 20 June 2008 (S/2008/411) concerning your intention to appoint Lamberto Zannier (Italy) as your Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Zalmay **Khalilzad**
President of the Security Council

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Security Council

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Letter dated 23 June 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

With reference to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007) I have the honour to convey to you the attached letter dated 16 June 2008 which I received from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, transmitting a report on the activities of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The report covers the period from 1 March to 31 May 2008.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

08-39820 (E) 260608

Annex

Letter dated 16 June 2008 from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

In accordance with the provisions of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007), I attach the fourteenth three-monthly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). The report covers the period from 1 March to 31 May 2008. I should be grateful if you would transmit this report to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

Enclosure

Report by the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union on the activities of the European Union Military Mission (EUFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

I. Introduction

1. This report covers the period 1 March to 31 May 2008.

2. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007) request that Member States, acting through or in co-operation with the EU, report to the Council on the activities of EUFOR, through the appropriate channels and at least at three monthly intervals. This document is the fourteenth such report.

II. Political Background

3. The BiH Parliament adopted two laws on police reform on 16 April. This proved sufficient for the EU Special Representative (EUSR) and the Head of the EU Police Mission (EUPM) to forward a positive assessment of the laws to the European Commission. On 29 April the Council of the European Union welcomed the conclusion of this first phase of police reform in BiH and recalled that agreement on this in line with the EU's three principles was one of the necessary conditions for further progress towards the conclusion of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA). The Council acknowledged BiH's progress on all four conditions for signing the SAA as set out in the Council conclusions of 12 December 2005. While BiH needed to undertake further efforts to address reforms, the Council expressed its readiness to sign the SAA. Preparations are under way for signature on 16 June.

4. In late March, State, Federation and Republika Srpska (RS) representatives signed the required transfer agreement granting the state full ownership rights over movable defence property (including weapons, ammunition, and explosives). This contributed to NATO, at its Summit in Bucharest on 3 April, inviting BiH to begin an Intensified Dialogue on the full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to its aspirations for NATO membership, without prejudice to any eventual Alliance decision.

5. A potentially major crisis on the matter of elected representation in Srebrenica was averted by local parties adopting amendments to the Election Law of BiH that will allow all those who were resident in Srebrenica in 1991 to have the option of casting votes for that municipality (irrespective of their Displaced Person status) in the 2008 municipal elections. Also on elections, the RS Government withdrew a proposal to revert to indirect election of mayors in the RS after questions were raised domestically and by international organizations. However, negative rhetoric began to re-emerge towards the end of the reporting period, as the municipal election campaign began in earnest.

III. Security situation and EUFOR activities

6. The overall security situation in BiH remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period. Although there were some demonstrations linked to the Kosovo declaration of independence, they were handled effectively by local police. EUFOR was not requested to assist, but remained ready to do so if necessary. The outcome of the elections in Serbia did not lead to disturbances in BiH. Nationalistic rhetoric continues in BiH, but has had no impact on the safe and secure environment. EUFOR continues closely to monitor the overall security situation.

7. The current force of some 2,500 EUFOR troops is concentrated in Sarajevo, with liaison and observation teams deployed throughout BiH. EUFOR continues to conduct operations in line with its mandate: providing deterrence; ensuring continued compliance in relation to the responsibilities specified in the General Framework Agreement for Peace, Annexes 1a and 2; and contributing to a safe and secure environment. EUFOR continues to support the BiH law enforcement agencies in fighting organized crime in close cooperation with EUPM; and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the search for Persons Indicted for War Crimes (PIFWCs).

8. In the reporting period EUFOR, on behalf of the ICTY and supported by local police, intensified search operations against the Radovan Karadzic support network, and other persons suspected of supporting the network, to find material or information which could assist the ICTY with the search and capture of persons indicted by the Hague Tribunal. On 30 May, the High Representative, Miroslav Lajčák, acting in coordination with the ICTY and BiH security agencies, ordered BiH law enforcement agencies to seize the travel documents of 16 individuals linked to ICTY indictee Stojan Župljanin. In a related development, and after consultation with the ICTY Chief Prosecutor, the High Representative removed Predrag

Ostanic from his post in the BiH Intelligence and Security Agency.

9. There was further progress during the reporting period in the area of Joint Military Affairs. In April, EUFOR certified Armed Forces BiH (AF BiH) Internal Inspection Team members for the inspection of Weapons and Ammunition Storage sites, in order to reinforce BiH capabilities to carry out inspections independently. In May, EUFOR and the AF BiH signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a management and inspection system at Ammunition Storage sites, for which the AF BiH has taken over sole responsibility. By the end of May, and in line with the AF BiH annual inspection roster, joint teams had inspected more than 22,000 out of 36,000 tonnes of munitions.

10. As previously reported, EUFOR transferred responsibility to the BiH authorities in January 2008 for the control of the movement of military weapons and ammunition. EUFOR continues to monitor and support the implementation of these responsibilities. As for Civilian Movement Control (control of the movement of weapons and ammunition by BiH contractors), EUFOR has made the necessary technical preparations and is ready to hand over responsibility once the necessary legislation has been adopted and suitable arrangements have been established by the BiH authorities.

11. During the reporting period, EUFOR and AF BiH further developed combined training. AF BiH started company-level training in early April. In line with the common training schedule, AF BiH participated in a MAPEX. In May, EUFOR expanded military training for AF BiH to include specialist training such as First Aid and Emergency.

IV. Outlook

The security situation is expected to remain stable despite the prospects of continuing political tension.

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Letter dated 23 June 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach the report and recommendations of Lt. General Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, Chief Mediator of the peace process between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army, transmitted to me by my Special Envoy for the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas, Joaquim Alberto Chissano.

I should be grateful if you would bring the report and recommendations included in the annex to the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council, as requested by the Chief Mediator.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

08-39832 (E) 080708

Annex

Letter dated 18 June 2008 from the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas to the Secretary-General

The Chief Mediator and Vice-President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Lt. General Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon, has requested me to present to you his report regarding the status of the peace talks between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

The report reviews the current situation of the peace process and provides recommendations on the way forward. The Chief Mediator is of the view that: (i) efforts should continue to bring the LRA back to the peace process; (ii) a door should be left open for diplomatic action that would restore dialogue with LRA in Juba even if other actions are contemplated; (iii) implementation of certain aspects of the Juba Agreements, especially humanitarian and socio-economic interventions in the areas affected by LRA activities should commence; (iv) work should continue on establishing new justice institutions; (v) the mediation process and certain mechanisms that have already been established should be sustained; (vi) and the process should continue to be adequately resourced to ensure that those affected by the conflict are fully assisted to return to their communities. This would also enable the Mediator, the Facilitator and other stakeholders to ensure their preparedness to deal with the demobilization of LRA when the group returns to the process.

While the Chief Mediator believes that the aforementioned elements will secure the gains of the Juba Agreements for the benefit of Ugandans, he awaits the response of the Government of the Republic of Uganda and LRA to his proposals. He has also asked me to transmit his report to the President of the Security Council and to members of the Council.

(*Signed*) Joaquim A. **Chissano**

Enclosure

Report and recommendations of the Chief Mediator of the peace process between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army

Introduction

1. Peace talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) formally commenced in Juba on 16th July 2006, after the Parties accepted the mediation of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) to find a peaceful settlement to the long conflict between them. The protracted negotiations have now been concluded. However, the LRA has not yet signed the text of the final agreement. More recently, there have been reports of increased LRA movements and military activities in the region. At the same time states in the region have been discussing alternative ways of dealing with the LRA. These developments pose questions about the status of the peace process that need to be addressed. As the mediation, we believe that the process of negotiations which commenced in Juba produced sound agreements, which, while challenging to implement, are indispensable for attaining a sustainable resolution of this conflict, and should command our commitment.

Background and Rationale for GoSS Mediation

2. The Government of Southern Sudan is more than just a mediator in this process; we are a key stakeholder. For many years, LRA's activities, and the Government of Uganda's counter-insurgency have been carried out within Southern Sudan's borders, with significant disruptive effects on our civil population and economic and trade activities – LRA activity also threatened to disrupt traffic between Juba and important arteries of transport through Northern Uganda. Resolving the LRA conflict remains a pre-condition for securing the conditions for peaceful return and resettlement of our refugee and the internally displaced populations. Today, Southern Sudanese need to consolidate the gains of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and therefore have very high stakes in the outcome of the negotiations. However, the benefits of this peace process will extend, and, indeed, are already being felt, well beyond our borders. For these reasons, we believe that the process we commenced in Juba must not be abandoned, as it represents the most rational and comprehensive response to the LRA conflict, thus far.

The Negotiations – Outcomes and Challenges

3. In Juba, the Parties adopted a comprehensive approach, which sought to resolve, once-and-for-all, all contentious matters arising from the conflict; including its underlying causes and impacts. Five Agenda Items were therefore adopted: **(i) Cessation of Hostilities (ii) Comprehensive Solutions (ii) Reconciliation and Accountability (iv) Permanent Ceasefire (v) Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR).** These formed the basis of the negotiations.

4. As the mediation, we ensured that the talks in Juba benefited from wide input from community representatives, who participated as observers throughout the negotiations. The process also gained immensely from consultations the Parties carried out in Uganda during the second part of 2007. Although the talks were held outside Uganda, we are nevertheless very confident that the outcomes reflect the aspirations of the Parties and, crucially, the conflict-affected communities of Uganda.

5. I can therefore report, with full satisfaction, that by 25th March 2008, the Parties had achieved consensus on all the Agenda Items. They signed or initialled eight substantive agreements which, altogether, constitute the Final Peace Agreement. A short text which was to be ceremonially signed by General Joseph Kony and His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni was initialled.

Challenges – Representation for the LRA

6. Like any other process, the Juba talks have endured challenging phases. From the outset, with ICC arrest warrants hanging over their heads, the leaders of the LRA refused to travel to Juba. They then had to rely on representatives to negotiate on their behalf, and retained communications through visits and via telephone. This is not unusual: many peace negotiations are undertaken by representatives rather than by the leaders of the respective groups themselves. What is required is credible representation. I am satisfied that the LRA leadership remained in constant communication with its delegation on all the issues that were on the table in Juba. On several occasions we met or spoke with General Joseph Kony, his deputy, Vincent Otti, and senior LRA commanders. Lawyers from my mediation team, as well as UN representatives, also met with the LRA leaders including in their camps. Throughout, the Government of Uganda too continued its own direct communications with the LRA leaders. The fact that the LRA leadership made several changes to the composition and leadership of the delegation reflects the extent of its involvement. We need to ensure that the LRA leadership

continues to have confidence in those who represent it during this process.

Overcoming Mistrust

7. Although the Government of Southern Sudan has always acted in good faith, it was still necessary to continually reassure the LRA of the impartiality of the mediation. During the talks efforts were devoted to improving the climate of trust between the Parties and to allay the LRA's fears. Through the good offices of the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for LRA-affected areas, Mr Joaquim Chissano, regional support has been harnessed in support of the process. The presidents of South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique sent representatives to the talks under the aegis of the African Union. We salute Mr Chissano, and the African Ambassadors, as we came to refer to the representatives, for their invaluable inputs during the negotiations process. Their presence strengthened the mediation and has represented African and regional solidarity in solving this difficult problem.

Building Solidarity and Support

8. Alongside the African Ambassadors, other representatives of the international community also stood with us in Juba throughout the process of the talks, often brokering compromises on difficult questions. Through a Juba Initiative Fund, supported by several countries, and other arrangements for support, they helped to sustain the dialogue process, and the infrastructure that made talks possible. Without that support, the process would have faltered, badly. We hope to count on that solidarity in the next difficult phase of this process, which requires continuing support.

The Dividends of the Dialogue Process

9. I have already referred to the Government of Southern Sudan's motivations for offering our mediation to the Parties. Since the commencement of the talks, palpable gains have been registered for affected communities in Uganda and Sudan, especially since 26th August 2006 when agreement was reached on the **cessation of hostilities**. That agreement contains two key measures which are of immense value: (i) **assembly areas for the LRA**; and, (ii) the establishment of a **Cessation of Hostilities Monitoring Team (CHMT)** to monitor the cessation, impartially. I emphasise these two instruments now, as I have particular recommendations to make about them later.

10. Ri-Kwang-Ba and Owiny-Ki-Bul, in Western and Eastern Equatoria respectively were initially chosen as assembly areas. On 14th April 2007, the Parties agreed to retain only Ri-Kwang-Ba for assembling. At the same time, the decision was taken to expand the CHMT, to include members from more African countries. The team is currently composed of military officers from: Kenya, Tanzania, the DRC, Mozambique, and South Africa. They are a keystone of the process.

11. Since the departure of the LRA from Northern Uganda and the East of the River Nile in Sudan under the Juba process, the situation in Northern Uganda and Eastern Equatoria has been transformed by the improvements in security. I understand that the humanitarian situation has markedly improved in Northern Uganda, where some districts of Northern Uganda have registered complete return of their displaced populations to their homes. Where people might still remain in camps, it is principally for reasons unconnected with insecurity. These are some of the unquestionable humanitarian dividends of the Juba talks. Other social and economic gains continue, with immeasurable benefits, which must not be forgotten as we plan our responses to the current situation.

Elements of the Agreements

12. As I have already stated, the strategy we adopted was to address to the greatest extent possible, all the issues relevant to resolving the conflict. Thus the agreements on **Comprehensive Solutions** deal with the root causes, political questions and amelioration of the socio-economic impacts of the conflict. Another key agreement, which has received wide attention nationally and internationally, is the **Agreement on Accountability and Reconciliation**. Together with its annexure, it has made detailed provisions on how to address the crimes and abuses perpetrated during the conflict. This agreement also sets out the framework for promoting reconciliation and healing in all the affected communities, and within the body politic in Uganda. A combination of formal and non-formal justice and adjudication processes would give a comprehensive response to the many years of violations in Northern Uganda and beyond. We believe that the agreements provide a full and sufficient answer to the question of criminal accountability, consistently with international standards.

13. Combatants are always concerned about how they will be received back home upon abandoning rebellion. The agreements of ceasefire and DDR have therefore addressed, comprehensively, the process of return and reintegration of the LRA. The Parties adopted best practices in these fields, and with the support of the international community, we envisage a smooth demobilisation and reintegration of LRA. Under the agreement on Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms (IMM), a Joint Liaison Group (JLG) and an Oversight Forum are to be established signature of the Final peace Agreement. These organs, which would have wide participation, include LRA, for the JLG, are intended to provide vital monitoring of the implementation process. The IMM also allows time for the Parties to prepare for full disarmament and for the justice processes in Uganda, ahead of the LRA's repatriation back to Uganda.

Failure of the LRA to Sign the FPA

14. Despite the arrangements made for his signature on 10th April 2008, General Joseph Kony did not appear for the signing in Ri-Kwang-Ba, citing some concerns about the agreement. Neither did he meet the Uganda community leaders who returned to Nabanga a month later, for a May 10th meeting, prepared to engage Joseph Kony on those issues. The LRA leader had sought further clarifications about the agreements; in particular, he wanted to understand the relationship between the proposed Special Division of the High Court (for trying crimes committed during the conflict) and the traditional justice mechanisms, especially of Acholi. Joseph Kony's consecutive failures to appear for planned meetings was a serious disappointment to the many people, across the world, all who had worked and hoped for final signatures of the Agreements.

15. Many questions have been raised, especially within the affected communities, about the implications of the non-signature of the FPA. I believe there is a background to this: there appear to have been tensions within the LRA in the latter part of the negotiations. In October 2007, news started to emerge that Vincent Otti, the Vice Chairman of the LRA, had been killed. After that, the LRA was said to be on the move again. Some of these tensions manifested in the changes in the leadership and the composition of the LRA delegation.

16. Although it has not been possible to establish the extent or full significance of any frictions within the LRA, they represent obstacles to be overcome, and underscore the need to adopt realistic timeframes for securing the full implementation of the agreements. As the mediation, we

consider it to be our duty to work with the Parties, through their representatives, as we find them: it is not our role to strengthen or undermine the internal cohesion of any of the Parties. Our priority now is to work to overcome the current reluctance of the LRA to full commit to full implementation of the Agreement.

Current Status of the Process

17. The failure of General Kony to sign the text of the cover Agreement obviously represents a setback for the full implementation of the agreements. As I have stated, the formal negotiations have been completed. Although efforts to engage the LRA are ongoing, they fall outside the negotiation process. That process is likely to involve further explanations and clarifications of the texts and rationale of the agreements. This of itself is not unusual. We strongly encourage and will work with others to pursue meaningful contacts with the LRA. We are acutely mindful that without signature of the FPA significant elements of the agreements cannot be implemented. More fundamentally, the LRA's full and active participation and compliance in the process is essential for a credible resolution of this conflict.

Military activities of the LRA in the Region

18. I have already referred to the recent military activity of the LRA in the region. For the duration of the talks the bulk of the LRA has been in the DRC, indeed, it is from there that they initiated the talks. Various reports have placed the group within the Central African Republic (CAR) from where allegations of crimes have emerged. The Mediation has not carried out independent verification of these accounts. We understand that others are actively looking into these allegations more closely. The information indicates, at the very least, that the LRA has been present and active in the CAR, although questions still remain about the extent and nature of that presence.

LRA Activities within Sudan

19. Here in Southern Sudan, however, we can state with greater certainty, that there have been incidents involving the LRA over the past several months. Several Sudanese nationals have been abducted, especially from Western Equatoria. These actions have created great fear and tensions extending beyond Western Equatoria. The situation has recently been exacerbated when on 5th June 2008, in a surprise dawn raid, forces believed to be the LRA attacked a contingent of our SPLA (Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army)

forces which had been deployed to support this process in Nabanga, just outside the assembly point of Ri-Kwang-Ba.

20. On 10th June 2008, I sent the CHMT on a verification mission to Nabanga. The following day, the Team reported to me as follows: On 5th June 2008, the LRA attacked the SPLA camp in Nabanga killing 14 soldiers. Six women and another six children also died in the attack. Four LRA combatants were reportedly killed. Their bodies were left behind. Huts and property were destroyed. The community in Nabanga has been left in disarray.

21. We condemn all these actions in the strongest terms, as violations of the letter and the spirit of the Agreements. Attacks such as these have characterised this conflict over a long period. We do not believe that there is an easy solution, or magic wand, for resolving this conflict. It is this kind of action within Sudan, which made it necessary for the Government of Southern Sudan to embark on this process of mediation. Whilst we must feel disappointment about such apparent reversals, and non-compliance with the terms of the agreements, we cannot yield to despair or react only in anger. More than ever, a more constructive response is required at this time.

Strategy for the Interim Period

22. Having examined and assessed the events of the unfolding events over the last months the Government of Southern Sudan still remains committed to seeing the Parties sign the Final Peace Agreement and fulfilling their obligations. This is still our top priority. While we work to secure progress, we believe that this period, which is of indeterminate length, should be used for promoting and consolidating the positive elements of the agreements.

23. I therefore propose the following for this interim period:

a) Continuing engagement with the LRA

It is essential to continue to encourage the LRA to re-engage with the peace process and complete formal signing of the Final Peace Agreement. If we succeed in this, then we would be able to proceed with full implementation of the agreements.

b) Commencing implementation of the Juba Agreements
In view of the many social, economic and politically positive and urgent elements of the agreements, it is vital to commence implementation of relevant provisions.

c) Maintaining or adapting some mechanisms of the Agreements
Key implementation instruments of the process should be retained. Where necessary, adaptations should be considered to ensure the credibility of the interim implementation.

d) Harnessing resources for interim implementation
Whilst our Government will continue to invest in this process, even with scaled-down infrastructure, interim implementation would still require resources. Our own efforts, working with other community stakeholders, to continue pursuing signatures will invariably entail expenditures.

A. Continuing Engagement with the LRA

24. As already affirmed, the Government of Southern Sudan prefers a peaceful resolution of this conflict. It therefore invites the LRA leadership to return to complete the dialogue process, it was instrumental in beginning. In my first meetings with the LRA at the beginning of 2006, they confirmed their willingness to enter the talks in good faith. We call upon those who might exert influence on the LRA to engage them to recommit to the process. In this connection, the Government of Southern Sudan appreciates the role of the Special Envoy, Mr Joaquim Chissano, and will continue to cooperate with his office in his ongoing endeavours in the LRA-affected areas.

B. Commencing Implementation of the Agreements

25. The mediation believes that the agreements reached in Juba are all legally valid: they are not provisional instruments. They require no further negotiations. All were signed or initialled by the parties. Although some of the agreements will await signature and LRA compliance to be implemented, there is no legal bar to implementing the other aspects of the agreements, with necessary modifications. There are four compelling reasons for commencing selective implementation now:

- Firstly, as a confidence-building measure reassuring the LRA that the agreements they negotiated are being respected, and that the Ugandan communities are ready to receive and reintegrate them in good faith.

- Secondly, for the immense benefits that would accrue to the conflict affected communities. Many of the solutions adopted in the agreements are victim and community-focused, thus transcending the ownership of the two Parties and should be availed in accordance with the needs and not formalities. The timing of humanitarian interventions envisaged in the agreements is dictated by events on the ground. As displaced persons return home spontaneously, the Uganda Government's obligations to assist them in that process begin.

- Thirdly, commencing implementation would address underlying grievances which might have sparked, fuelled, or resulted from the conflict. This would contribute to removing justification for any support for conflict.

- Lastly, and linked to the first point, this would answer sceptics and detractors of the peace process. No peace process is immune from doubts and even sabotage. The evidence of good faith implementation provides the most eloquent response in such circumstances.

Support for the Principle of Interim Implementation

26. We are immensely encouraged to have found a very strong sense amongst key stakeholders that the gains of the 20-month negotiations should not be lost. Indeed, the Uganda Government, which shoulders the main burden of the burden of implementation, has already commenced efforts to implement aspects of the agreement. I am given to understand that the Prime Minister has written to various Government departments, to achieve this. Most notably, a War Crimes Division of the Uganda High Court has been established, directly in accordance with the Agreements. Even with limited implementation contemplated, there will still be several strands from the various agreements, which will require the process to be carefully planned, coordinated and prioritised.

Designing Implementation

27. Clarity concerning the strategy and revised timeframes for implementation is essential, including for monitoring and oversight functions to be carried out. This would not only make implementation more likely, it would give assurance to all stakeholders about the process. In this connection, the Mediation proposes that the **Government of Uganda should publicise its strategy** and prioritisation for interim implementation of the agreements. This, in turn, would be made available to key stakeholders, including the Mediator. Such a document would serve as a framework for carrying out activities in the interim period and would also provide the basis for oversight and monitoring.

C. Maintaining Key mechanisms of the Agreement

28. Our third concern is that the instruments which have already been adopted to facilitate the transition from violence should not be dismantled. Maintaining functional systems is also of important symbolic value, as they provide incontrovertible evidence of good faith and the viability of the peaceful option during this period. In this connection, we propose the following:

- **Retaining Ri-Kwang-Ba as a gazetted assembly area.** This means keeping the facilities there functional. Beyond that, it requires maintaining preparedness to resume activities in the Assembly Area as soon as the LRA commences assembling. This is the undertaking of the Government of Southern Sudan. We therefore call upon the LRA to make use of Ri-Kwang-Ba, and, in the light of recent events, to desist from any further actions which destroy the sanctity of that area as an agreed place of sanctuary.

- **Maintaining a functional Cessation of Hostilities Monitoring Team** is crucial for the purpose of making security assessments, military monitoring and confidence-building in the interim period. The value of their contribution has already been demonstrated in their credible verification of the recent attack on Nabanga, which occurred during this uncertain period.

- **Maintaining the Mediator's advisory and oversight functions** and the effectiveness of my Office is essential. The issues I have raised here, concerning compliance with the agreements and interim implementation all require follow-up mechanisms. I will therefore continue to seek information and offer advice to the Parties, including through my team, on relevant issues of implementation.

- **Establishing an interim monitoring and oversight function** for the implementation activities especially those carried out in Uganda. The formal role of the negotiators has been accomplished. Prior to full implementation, when the organs of the JLG and the Oversight Forum will be established, a monitoring mechanism is nevertheless required.

  I have, in this connection, received a helpful paper from the LRA delegation on this issue, which I understand that the Government of Uganda is also considering at the moment. I will shortly be seeking its views on the matter. Whatever the consensus that will emerge, it is crucial that implementation should commence; that the plans adopted should be publicised and monitored; that it should be participatory and consistent with the Agreements; and, crucially, that the views of the other Party should be sought and taken into account. My office will remain engaged with this issue, in line with my recommendations above, including under Designing Implementation.

D. Harnessing resources for implementation

29. A decision has been taken by our donors to stop the funding for the Juba Initiative Fund, which is now to be wound up. We, however, consider that it is essential, given the ongoing needs of the process, for a satisfactory arrangement to be reached for continuing support in this interim period. We recognise that many of the programmes will be carried out in Uganda, and this reality should be recognised. Creating appropriate funding modalities now would ensure a stronger and more effective response in implementation. We would therefore **encourage the donor community to remain engaged** with this process, and invite them to discuss with us and the Government of Uganda the most appropriate modalities for taking this matter forward. Support will be essential for facilitating the crucial work of the CHMT which must continue in this period, before it is eventually transformed into the Ceasefire Monitoring Team, under the Permanent Ceasefire Agreement.

Participatory Implementation

30. We must remind ourselves that the key stakeholders and beneficiaries of this process are the people of the conflict-affected areas, especially in Uganda. Any interim implementation will need to ensure that the affected populations and victims continue to be consulted, as they have been, throughout the process of the talks. Indeed, many of the provisions of the agreements require active participation of communities at all stages of implementation. Realistic modalities for this will need to be found.

Conclusion

31. Many hopes and efforts have been invested in the talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army. The Government of Southern Sudan remains committed to returning the process onto the tracks agreed in Juba. We call upon the LRA to re-engage with the process by establishing regular and credible communication with the mediation, key stakeholders and the Government of Uganda. Seeking full compliance and implementation of the Agreements remains our primary priority and preference. In this search, we will rely on the continuing support of community, regional and international stakeholders.

32. We also believe that commencing effective implementation of certain aspects of the agreements immediately would consolidate the peace in Northern Uganda and parts of Southern Sudan, and improve the prospects for stabilising the other affected areas. Our efforts in this direction would demonstrate a viable peaceful alternative to violence as a means of ending this conflict. Although the path ahead is challenging, we believe that ending this conflict commands and deserves the full commitment of everyone. Our longsuffering populations expect nothing less from us.

33. I await the response of the Parties to these recommendations.

16/6/2008

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Lt. General Riek Machar Teny-Dhurgon (Ph.D)
Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan
Chief Mediator of the Uganda Peace Talks
Juba, 16th June 2008

United Nations S/2008/415

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 June 2008

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force of 16 June 2008 (S/2008/390), and also reaffirming its resolution 1308 (2000) of 17 July 2000,

1. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

3. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for a period of six months, that is, until 31 December 2008;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of this period, a report on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338 (1973).

08-40309 (E) 270608

United Nations A/62/887–S/2008/416

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 June 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 10
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 20 June 2008 from the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Chairman of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the President of the Economic and Social Council

We have the honour to refer to the conclusions and recommendations of the biannual review of the implementation of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework (PBC/2/SLE/8).

On 19 June 2008, the Government of Sierra Leone and the Peacebuilding Commission conducted the first biannual review of the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework adopted on 12 December 2007. The review noted that significant progress has been made in meeting several commitments contained in the Framework. However, additional efforts are needed, particularly in addressing the pressing issues of youth employment and empowerment, national reconciliation and capacity-building.

The biannual review meeting resulted in the adoption of succinct recommendations to the Government of Sierra Leone, the United Nations, the international community and the Peacebuilding Commission. In accordance with paragraph 14 of the Peacebuilding Commission founding resolutions (General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005)), we would like to draw your attention to the recommendation addressed to the international community for follow-up action. In particular, the attention of the Security Council is drawn to the recommendation contained in paragraph 5 (f) of the conclusions and recommendations pertaining to the future of the United Nations integrated presence in Sierra Leone.

08-39709 (E) 250608

The Peacebuilding Commission reiterates its determination to provide unflagging support to Sierra Leone in the consolidation of peace with a view to securing a future that is free from fear and want.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Takasu**
Chairman
Peacebuilding Commission

(*Signed*) Frank **Majoor**
Chairman
Sierra Leone configuration
Peacebuilding Commission

United Nations A/63/92–S/2008/417

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Item 10 of the preliminary list*
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its second session

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005), in which the Peacebuilding Commission was requested to submit an annual report to the General Assembly for an annual debate and review. The report will also be submitted to the Security Council, pursuant to its resolution 1646 (2005), for an annual debate. The report reviews the work of the Peacebuilding Commission during its second session, from 23 June 2007 to 22 June 2008.

II. Work of the Commission

2. At the beginning of the reporting period, the Commission elected its new Chairperson, Yukio Takasu (Japan), and Vice-Chairpersons, Carmen Gallardo Hernandez (El Salvador) and Leslie Kojo Christian (Ghana). The Burundi and Sierra Leone configurations were chaired by Johan L. Løvald (Norway) and Frank Majoor (Netherlands), respectively. The nomination of Maria Luiza R. Viotti (Brazil) as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration was endorsed by the Organizational Committee on 19 December 2007. The nomination of Jan Grauls (Belgium) as Chair of the country-specific configuration for the Central African Republic was also endorsed by the Organizational Committee on 12 June 2008. The Working Group on Lessons Learned was chaired by El Salvador. The various configurations, including the Organizational Committee, met regularly and addressed issues pertaining to their respective areas of competence.

* A/63/50.

08-40190 (E) 010708

A. Organizational Committee

3. During the second session, the Organizational Committee held on average one monthly informal meeting to address organizational and substantive matters. Formal meetings were convened only as necessary. The regular meetings of the Chairs of the Commission's configurations contributed to developing the Organizational Committee's agenda of meetings and, in general, the Commission's work programme. In addition, on 18 and 19 January 2008, the Chairperson convened an informal retreat of all members of the Organizational Committee to hold a strategic review of the work of the Commission, particularly with respect to its mandates of marshalling resources and enhancing coordination. The Secretary-General also participated in the inaugural part of the retreat, where he reflected on his role in support of the work of the Commission.

4. In his inaugural address before the Organizational Committee on 27 June 2007, the Chairperson outlined a road map and identified a number of key issues to be addressed by the Commission during its second year of operation. To a large extent, a number of those priorities set the foundation for the programme of work and focus of the work of the Organizational Committee during the reporting period, and were supported through inputs from the Peacebuilding Support Office.

Interaction with United Nations principal organs

5. The Chairperson established regular and direct working relationships with the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, and consulted them on issues related to the work of the Commission and on the means to enhance its relations with these organs.

6. On 10 and 17 October 2007, the Chairperson addressed the General Assembly and the Security Council, respectively, on the occasions of the annual debates held by the two organs on the report of the Commission on its first session (A/62/137-S/2007/458). The two debates represented an opportunity for the Commission to seek the views of the broader membership of the United Nations on conceptual and institutional matters of direct relevance to its work. The majority of the Member States viewed the progress achieved during the first year of the Commission's operations as positive and promising, while pointing to the need to focus on country-specific tangible results as the Commission further developed its engagement with the countries on its agenda.

7. The President of the General Assembly invited the Chairperson to an informal plenary meeting, held on 29 January 2008, to update the Assembly on the progress achieved in the work of the Commission since the Assembly's general debate during October 2007. The update represented an opportunity for an interactive dialogue with the broader membership, as well as for the Chairperson to seek the support of the Member States for the countries on the Commission's agenda.

8. The Chairperson also participated in a seminar on the theme "Formulation of a comprehensive and coherent strategy of conflict prevention, particularly in Africa", which was organized on 6 December 2007 by the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. The Chairperson addressed a high-level meeting of the Security Council on 16 April 2008, which was held in conjunction with the African Union Peace and Security Council, as well as

the Security Council debates on security-sector reform and post-conflict peacebuilding, held on 12 and 20 May 2008, respectively.

9. In an effort to follow up relevant mandates and references to the Commission in resolutions, decisions and statements of the three principal organs, the Organizational Committee tasked the Peacebuilding Support Office to compile a summary of all such mandates and references, which was circulated to the Organizational Committee as a non-paper on 1 November 2007. The findings of that exercise clearly demonstrated the growing relevance of the work of the Commission within the United Nations and, at the same time, elaborated on the broader definition of peacebuilding in relation to the respective competence and mandates of the principal organs.

Public awareness and visibility of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission

10. During the reporting period, the Chairperson also participated in several public events related to peacebuilding and the work of the Commission, organized by a range of existing and potential actors, stakeholders and partners, such as International Geneva (6 November 2007), the Government of Japan (24 January 2008) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (13 June 2008), as well as a number of events organized by other stakeholders. The participation of the Chairperson in those public events was part of a broader outreach and advocacy strategy aimed at raising the profile and increasing the visibility of the Commission in different quarters and enhancing awareness about its work.

Relationship with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, regional and subregional organizations, and international financial institutions

11. On several occasions, including at the Commission's first retreat, the Organizational Committee invited representatives of the relevant United Nations funds, agencies and programmes to brief and interact with its members. Those interactions promoted the work of the Commission in seeking partnerships and coherence in relevant activities within and outside the United Nations.

12. On 17 April 2008, the Organizational Committee held an interactive dialogue with the Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council in order to strengthen future interaction and collaboration between the Commission and the African Union Peace and Security Council. This was a crucial engagement given the evolving efforts of the African Union to implement its Policy Framework for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, which, like the integrated peacebuilding strategies applied by the Commission, reinforces the linkage between security, development and human rights as essential components for sustainable peace, as outlined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1). In that context, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support had also provided a briefing to the African Union Peace and Security Council in March 2008 in Addis Ababa. The Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission also visited the European Commission and the European Parliament in Brussels on 27 and 28 May to exchange views and to encourage the continued engagement of the European Union/European Community in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.

13. The Organizational Committee intensified its interaction with the international financial institutions and operational entities within the United Nations system.

Through two visits to the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in Washington, D.C., on 14 February and 31 March 2008, respectively, the Chairperson exchanged views with the senior leadership of the two institutions on ways to intensify interaction, exchange information and ensure coherence between the work and activities of the Commission and the international financial institutions.

Placing additional countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission

14. While respecting the primary responsibility of referring organs identified in paragraph 12 of the founding resolutions, the Chairperson initiated broad consultations within the Organizational Committee, and with those referring organs, on the most suitable manner for the contribution of the Commission to the selection of countries which may request to be placed on the agenda of the Commission. Those exchanges attest to a strong interest by the Commission to engage proactively with the referring entities. On 16 October and 19 November 2007, the Chairperson held informal discussions on that subject and prepared a non-paper entitled "Points to be considered for adding a new country to the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission", which was discussed at an informal meeting of the Organizational Committee on 19 November and subsequently brought to the attention of the Presidents of the referring organs.

15. Upon receipt of a formal request from the Security Council to provide advice on peacebuilding priorities for Guinea-Bissau (A/62/736-S/2007/744), the Organizational Committee convened a formal meeting on 19 December 2007, in which the Minister of Defence of Guinea-Bissau participated by videoconference and elaborated on his Government's request to be placed on the agenda of the Commission. At the same meeting, the Organizational Committee also decided to place Guinea-Bissau on the agenda of the Commission and to establish the Guinea-Bissau configuration.

16. Upon receipt of a formal request from the Security Council to provide advice on peacebuilding priorities for the Central African Republic (A/62/864-S/2008/383), the Organizational Committee convened a formal meeting on 12 June 2008 in which the President of the Central African Republic participated and elaborated on his Government's request to be placed on the agenda of the Commission. At the formal meeting, the Organizational Committee took a decision to place the Central African Republic on the agenda of the Commission and to establish a new country-specific configuration for the country.

17. In accordance with paragraph 12 of the founding resolutions, the request from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for placement on the Commission's agenda was conveyed to the Security Council for consideration on 25 April 2008. The request was also brought to the attention of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General.

Consideration of broad strategy and policy guidance on peacebuilding

18. The Organizational Committee held a discussion in November 2007 on the modalities to consider strategy and policy issues pertaining to the implementation of the mandates of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 of the founding resolutions. The Organizational Committee developed a shared understanding that the informal strategy and policy discussions should complement and not duplicate

the work of the country-specific configurations and the Working Group on Lessons Learned, and would result in an outcome which could be shared with, and helpful to, a broader community of peacebuilding actors and stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system.

19. On 19 February 2008, the Organizational Committee held a discussion on the theme "The role of the private sector in peacebuilding: contribution by the Peacebuilding Commission". Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Financial Corporation of the World Bank and the United Nations Foundations of International Partnerships were invited and they presented areas for possible partnerships between their respective entities and the Commission to promote the engagement of the domestic and international private sectors in peacebuilding. Members also presented their views and proposals for encouraging the flow of private human and financial resources to post-conflict countries. Subsequently, a task force, with Indonesia acting as Facilitator, was set up at the working level to focus on tangible ways through which the Commission could contribute to the strengthening of the role of the private sector in post-conflict peacebuilding, in accordance with the Commission's mandate to bring together all relevant actors to marshal support and resources. That consideration would include three specific areas: microfinance, remittances and partnerships with private foundations. On 19 June 2008, the Facilitator presented the outcome document of the task force to the Organizational Committee, which took note with appreciation of the work of the task force and the outcome document.

20. On 13 May 2008, the Organizational Committee held a discussion on the theme "Forging strategic synergies for peacebuilding: the role of the Peacebuilding Commission", during which the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations presented their perspectives on the subject and held an interactive dialogue with the members of the Organizational Committee.

21. On 19 June 2008, upon the invitation of the Organizational Committee, Joaquim Chissano, Chairperson of the Forum of African Former Heads of State and Government (Africa Forum) briefed the Committee on "Peacebuilding towards the construction of capable States in Africa".

Procedure and working methods

22. The Organizational Committee has taken a pragmatic approach in its second year of operations and recognized the need to continue to devise flexible practices on procedural matters that were not originally addressed in its provisional rules of procedure or its working methods, including the issuance of "conclusions and recommendations" and addressing routine procedural matters through the "silence procedure" method of taking decisions on non-objection basis.

23. On 19 December 2007, the Organizational Committee agreed on an arrangement for the participation of the European Community, represented by the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, in meetings of the Commission's country-specific configurations.

Financing of field missions

24. On 18 October 2007, the Organizational Committee mandated the Chairperson to request the President of the General Assembly to refer the content of paragraph 43 (on financing field missions) of the report of the Commission on its first session (A/62/137-S/2007/458) to the Assembly's Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) for consideration. Subsequently, the Fifth Committee approved a recommendation by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, which enabled the Commission to finance its field missions to the three countries under consideration between April and June 2008 (General Assembly resolution 62/245).

B. Burundi configuration

25. In its second year of engagement with Burundi, the Commission focused on developing a joint monitoring and tracking mechanism for the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi (PBC/1/BDI/4, annex), fulfilling a first set of engagements, while continuing to closely monitor peacebuilding in the country.

26. From 5 to 7 September 2007, the Chair of the Burundi configuration undertook a fact-finding mission to Burundi to discuss three issues that affected the country's efforts to consolidate peace and had the potential to provoke a crisis in the country: a fragile budgetary situation; a parliamentary deadlock resulting in the blocking of legislative action; and the withdrawal of Palipehutu-FNL from the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism on 21 July 2007. On the basis of the Chair's report, the Commission issued conclusions and recommendations calling the Government and other stakeholders to take the necessary measures to urgently deal with these issues (see PBC/2/BDI/2). Members of the Burundi configuration welcomed the approach of issuing conclusions and recommendations on specific issues resulting from its monitoring of the peacebuilding process and recommended that it be continued.

27. On 5 December 2007, the Commission, in its Burundi configuration, adopted a joint monitoring and tracking mechanism for the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi (PBC/2/BDI/4), defining benchmarks and indicators for the periodic assessment of progress in consolidating peace in the country. The mechanism was jointly developed by the Government of Burundi and the Commission. Key partners on the ground, in particular representatives of entities involved in the development of the Strategic Framework (representatives of civil society organizations, women's groups and international partners), were also involved in the definition of the benchmarks and indicators. Those benchmarks and indicators will allow joint monitoring to be conducted by the Government of Burundi and its partners to assess their respective contributions to the Strategic Framework.

28. On 6 December 2007 and upon the request of the Security Council, the Chair of the Burundi configuration provided a briefing to the Security Council on the political situation in Burundi. On 19 December 2007, the Security Council welcomed the Peacebuilding Commission's close engagement on Burundi, including the finalization with the Burundian Government of the Strategic Framework and the adoption of the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism, and looked forward to its implementation in the same spirit of partnership (Security Council resolution 1791 (2007)).

29. On 6 February 2008, the Burundi configuration agreed on an annual workplan, focusing on two sets of activities: (a) fulfilling the engagements reflected in the Strategic Framework and in the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism and (b) monitoring the peacebuilding process and providing advice to relevant stakeholders. In view of the return of refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania to the country and the expected implications for additional resource needs, the schedule of a thematic meeting on finding sustainable solutions to land issues was brought forward to 27 May 2008.

30. On 22 and 23 February 2008, the Chair of the Burundi configuration participated in a meeting of special envoys for Burundi convened by the South African Facilitation in Cape Town, South Africa. The meeting agreed on an outcome entitled "Programme of action to take further the Burundi peace process". On the basis of the Chair's report on his participation in the meeting, the Commission issued conclusions and recommendations on the situation in Burundi (see PBC/2/BDI/7), welcoming the active and continued engagement of the African Union, the Regional Peace Initiative for Burundi and the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB). The Commission welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the South African Facilitation until 31 December 2008 and made recommendations to stakeholders in the peace process in order to ensure the successful implementation of the 2006 Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Burundi and the Palipehutu-FNL.

31. On 28 and 29 February 2008, the Chair of the Burundi configuration and the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration visited the World Bank Group and IMF to sensitize them on the objectives of the Strategic Framework and the engagement between Burundi and the Commission. The discussion with IMF was an opportunity to take stock of the contribution of the Chair of the Burundi configuration in resolving the 2007 budgetary crisis of Burundi, as well as to discuss possible collaboration in the follow-up to the conclusion of the sixth review under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility. The visit was also an opportunity for the two Chairs to hold discussions with, and advocate for support from, representatives of the United Sates Government concerning the work of the Commission with emphasis on the situation of the two countries.

32. From 10 to 15 May 2008, a delegation of seven members of the Burundi configuration travelled to Burundi on a field mission to obtain first-hand information about the situation on the ground, in particular on the renewed confrontations between the Palipehutu-FNL and the National Defence Forces of Burundi, following attacks by the Palipehutu-FNL in April 2008 and the protracted stalemate in Parliament in the first part of the year. The visit was also an opportunity to review the preparation of the first biannual review scheduled to take place on 23 June 2008 and to focus the attention of the international community on peacebuilding efforts in Burundi. The delegation from New York was joined by 10 representatives of the Commission in Burundi. On 22 May 2008 and upon the request of the Security Council, the Chair briefed the Security Council on the situation in the country.

33. The Peacebuilding Support Office circulated a document containing a detailed mapping of resources and contributions from various stakeholders to the peacebuilding process in Burundi in order to allow the Burundi configuration to better focus its efforts, in particular in the areas of resource mobilization and

coordination of the international community's support for Burundi. The mapping served as an input to the first biannual report on the implementation of the Strategic Framework.

34. The first biannual review of the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi was held on 23 June 2008. The meeting evaluated progress made by the Government of Burundi, the Commission and other stakeholders, as defined by the mutually agreed benchmarks of the matrix of the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi, and adopted the recommendations of the biannual review at the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi (PBC/2/BDI/9).

C. Sierra Leone configuration

35. In its second year of engagement with Sierra Leone, the Commission focused on support for the national elections and the democratic transition, the finalization of a Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, the broadening of the donor base, and enhancing Government and donor partnerships and coordination.

36. Following a request from the Security Council to track progress and monitor developments in the lead-up to the 11 August 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections in Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone configuration held three informal and one formal meetings on the subject. Those meetings involved all relevant national and international stakeholders, and provided a helpful forum to raise concerns and assess progress in the preparations for the elections.

37. On 22 June 2007, the Sierra Leone configuration adopted a Chair's declaration on the Presidential and Parliamentary elections to be held in Sierra Leone on 11 August 2007 (PBC/1/SLE/4), which was transmitted to the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. The Declaration welcomed the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone, the United Nations system and the international partners in preparing for the elections. It stated that the elections were a critical milestone for the consolidation of peace and democracy in Sierra Leone, and urged all stakeholders to make every effort to ensure that they were conducted peacefully and in accordance with international standards. The declaration specifically encouraged the political parties, their supporters and media representatives to adhere to the Political Parties Code of Conduct and the Media Code of Conduct, and to support the participation of women and youth in the elections. Subsequent elections on 11 August, the run-off presidential election on 5 September and the peaceful transition of power from one democratically elected leader to another were a remarkable achievement by the people of Sierra Leone.

38. From 9 to 15 October 2007, the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration visited Sierra Leone to meet with the newly elected Government and discuss concrete ways in which the Commission could support the Government's efforts for peace, reconciliation and economic recovery. During the visit, the need to finalize a Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework by the end of the year was stressed. The participants in the visit concluded that the Commission should also consider adding the energy sector as a priority in addition to the previously identified peacebuilding priority areas of good governance; youth employment and empowerment; security-sector reform and justice-sector reform; and capacity-building.

39. During the thematic discussion of the energy sector held by the Sierra Leone configuration on 21 November 2007, the Government of Sierra Leone called on the Commission to mobilize additional resources and commitments to support the Government's urgent response to the energy crisis and a medium-term energy-sector strategy, noting that energy was a critical element for addressing all other peacebuilding requirements.

40. On 12 December, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone adopted a Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework (PBC/2/SLE/1). Zainab Bangura, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, represented the Government of Sierra Leone at the adoption meeting and highlighted that the Government of Sierra Leone was fully committed to the implementation of the Peacebuilding Framework and that the fulfilment of some of the commitments would need to take into account the outcome of the ongoing constitutional review. All stakeholders stressed that the Framework should guide the work of the Commission and the Government by highlighting key peacebuilding challenges in existing national strategies and commitments, and ensuring their timely and effective implementation. They also stressed that the Framework should ensure Sierra Leone's cooperation with the Commission on the basis of national ownership, mutual accountability and sustained engagement. The Commission made a commitment to use the Framework to enhance dialogue and strengthen partnerships between Sierra Leone and its international partners and to mobilize additional resources for peace consolidation efforts. On 14 December 2007 and upon the request of the Security Council, the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration provided a briefing to the Security Council on progress made in that respect.

41. With the successful adoption of the Framework, the engagement of the Commission focused on three primary objectives: generating support for the implementation of the commitments contained in the Framework, broadening of the donor base in Sierra Leone and triggering new activities or expanding existing activities in peacebuilding priority areas.

42. On 17 January 2008, the Sierra Leone configuration agreed on a workplan for resource mobilization, outreach and advocacy. Subsequently, the Chair visited Washington, D.C., London, Brussels, Berlin and The Hague, and convened meetings with representatives of the private sector, foundations and international financial institutions to raise awareness about the Framework and garner political and financial support for its implementation. The Framework was also transmitted to all relevant stakeholders through a joint letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone and the Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands.

43. In addition to advocacy and resource mobilization, in the first half of 2008 the country-specific configuration also focused on the issues of support to local council elections and the implementation of the energy-sector emergency plan. The meetings of the Sierra Leone configuration held on 14 February and 18 March 2008 on the subject of local elections and the energy sector resulted in a strong appeal to contribute to the UNDP Basket Fund for Local Council Elections to meet the funding gap of almost US$ 13 million.

44. From 21 to 25 April 2008, the Chair undertook a mission to discuss the status of implementation of the Framework and to prepare for a high-level stakeholders

consultation and the biannual review of the Framework, held on 19 May and 19 June 2008, respectively. The Chair's visit highlighted developments, progress and challenges in the implementation of the Framework, particularly in the areas of justice and security sector reform, anti-corruption, energy-sector development and local council elections. On 7 May 2008 and upon the request of the Security Council, the Chair briefed the Security Council on the recent developments in Sierra Leone and provided recommendations on the continued integrated presence of the United Nations in the country.

45. On 19 May 2008, a high-level stakeholders consultation brought together members of the Government of Sierra Leone, senior representatives of member States, the United Nations, the private sector and the civil society. The primary objectives of the consultation were to garner support for the implementation of the Framework, initiate new partnerships, generate support for existing peacebuilding initiatives and broaden the donor base for Sierra Leone. The meeting also explored challenges to forging partnerships and innovative ideas for mobilization of resources, such as the utilization of pooled funding and sector-wide strategies. Several stakeholders expressed commitments to continue or increase their support to Sierra Leone in line with the Framework.

46. The Chair led a visit to Sierra Leone from 1 to 6 June to obtain first-hand information on the progress in the implementation of the Framework and to prepare for the upcoming biannual review.

47. On 19 June 2008, the Sierra Leone configuration held the first biannual review of the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework for Sierra Leone, and adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the biannual review of the implementation of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework (PBC/2/SLE/8).

D. Guinea-Bissau configuration

48. On the basis of a request by the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau on 11 July 2007, the Security Council, on 11 December 2007, referred the country to the Commission and requested its advice on: (a) governmental capacity to institute effective oversight and management of national finances, and comprehensive public sector reform, including effective anti-corruption policies and programmes; (b) action by the Government and the international community to develop effective, accountable and sustainable security systems and to strengthen the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law, taking account in particular of the dangers posed by drug trafficking and organized crime; and (c) ongoing development of democratic accountability and preparations for elections in 2008. The Security Council further requested initial advice from the Commission within 90 days.

49. From 23 to 25 January 2008, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration undertook an exploratory mission to Bissau to gather first-hand impressions on the situation and to establish contacts on the ground with the Government and other stakeholders.

50. On 20 February 2008, a high-level delegation, headed by Martinho Dafa Cabi, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, addressed the Commission, summarizing his Government's peacebuilding priorities and challenges as (a) the reform of public

administration; (b) the consolidation of the rule of law and security-sector reforms, including support for the electoral system, support for the judicial system; demobilization, reintegration and reinsertion of military and police, small arms and light weapons collection and mine action; (c) the promotion of professional technical training and youth employment; and (d) support for vulnerable groups, including access to social services, development of human capital in the education sector, and strengthening of human capital and improvements in the functioning of health centres. The revitalization of the economy and the rehabilitation of infrastructure, particularly in the energy sector, were also emphasized. The Chairperson of the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict provided a briefing on the experience and work of the Advisory Group during the meeting. The Guinea-Bissau configuration unanimously decided, at that meeting, to declare the country eligible for support from the Peacebuilding Fund. On 27 February 2008, the Minister of Defense of Guinea-Bissau participated via video-link in a meeting of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, during which he articulated the country's priorities in the area of security-sector reform, notably the need to provide assistance to improve the living conditions of soldiers, including by refurbishing military barracks.

51. On 20 March 2008, the Chair met with senior representatives of the World Bank in Washington, D.C., to explore ways of strengthening the coordination of efforts between the World Bank and the Commission. The Chair reported that the World Bank would take the work of the Commission into consideration in its next programme planning for the country.

52. At the end of March 2008, the Security Council was presented with the latest report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau and received, upon the request of the Security Council, an oral update from the Chair on the progress of the Commission's work on Guinea-Bissau on 26 March 2008. Separately, the Chair wrote to the President of the Security Council, conveying to him the preliminary findings of the Commission (A/62/768-S/2008/208), on the basis of her exploratory mission to Bissau, the documents prepared by the Peacebuilding Support Office and the initial discussions of the Guinea-Bissau configuration. A document entitled "Mapping of resources and gaps for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau" and an analytical background note on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/2/GNB/5) were presented to the country-specific configuration on 13 February and 14 March 2008, respectively, with the objective of contributing to the coordination of efforts by donors and other stakeholders. The latter document was updated in April 2008 and will serve as a "living document" to reflect additional cooperation initiatives in support of Guinea-Bissau.

53. A draft outline of the strategic framework for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau was discussed by the Guinea-Bissau configuration and subsequently submitted to the Government of Guinea-Bissau for comments. The Government is currently engaged in drafting the strategic framework, in consultation with all relevant actors in Guinea-Bissau and in New York. The draft strategic framework is expected to be finalized and endorsed by the Guinea-Bissau configuration by July 2008.

54. From 6 to 11 April 2008, the Commission undertook a mission to Guinea-Bissau to continue the dialogue with the Government and other national and international stakeholders on the strategic framework for the country. The delegation

met with Government representatives at all levels, including political parties; the army; civil society, including the private sector; the diplomatic community; and the United Nations country team. The delegation also visited a number of sites in and outside Bissau, which illustrated some of the key peacebuilding challenges faced by the country. In addition, the delegation attended the swearing-in ceremony of the National Steering Committee set up for the disbursement of the Peacebuilding Fund, co-chaired by the Government of Guinea-Bissau and the United Nations and with representation from Government ministries, United Nations funds and programmes, bilateral and multilateral partners and civil society.

55. Following the approval of the interim priority plan, the Secretary-General allocated a Peacebuilding Fund funding envelope of US$ 6 million to Guinea-Bissau. That initial disbursement, in support of projects in the fields of judicial police, army barracks, youth employment and elections, was the first tranche of the Peacebuilding Fund allocation to Guinea-Bissau. A second tranche will be allocated after the adoption of the strategic framework. That early allocation of funds was made in line with the Guinea-Bissau configuration's decision to engage in a two-track approach, which combines a strategic planning effort with a focus on short-term deliverables.

E. Working Group on Lessons Learned

56. The Working Group on Lessons Learned was established to analyse best practices and lessons on critical peacebuilding issues. The objective of the Working Group remains to enrich the deliberations of the Commission with respect to the countries on its agenda. Bringing expert practitioners and policy analysts to engage with the Commission, the Working Group also continues to benefit from the expertise of member States that have relevant post-conflict experience. In organizing its meetings, the Working Group drew on the expertise of a range of international and national actors, including from throughout the United Nations system, civil society organizations and research institutions.

57. During the second session of the Commission, the Working Group held eight informal meetings, focusing on the lessons and good practices associated with: (a) the design and monitoring of peacebuilding strategic frameworks in fragile states; (b) the constraints placed on fiscal capacities in post-conflict countries; (c) the challenges to local governance and decentralization in post-war contexts; (d) the opportunities for enhancing women's participation in peacebuilding; (e) the promotion of justice in times of transition; (f) the risks from failing to address internal displacement effectively in post-war settings; and (g) the interplay between the environment, natural resources, conflict and peacebuilding.

58. The Working Group targeted its analytical findings and policy recommendations to the work of the country-specific configurations. Briefing papers and Chair's summaries from the Working Group's sessions were widely disseminated in the United Nations peacebuilding community, including through the Commission's website, the Peacebuilding Community of Practice and the Peacebuilding Initiative of the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research.

59. A meeting of the Working Group convened on 12 June 2008 was specifically devoted to a general review of the major principles and best practices that had been

collected to date within the broader peacebuilding perspective. On 19 June 2008, the Chair of the Working Group reported to the Organizational Committee, including on the outcome of the 12 June meeting.

III. Peacebuilding Fund

60. As of March 2008, the Peacebuilding Fund has recorded pledges of US$ 267 million, thus exceeding the original target of US$ 250 million. The strong overall support for the Fund, as well as its diverse donor base, comprising 45 donors, including 19 new donors, who have made contributions since June 2007, attest to a strong and continued commitment to peacebuilding.

61. As reported by the Peacebuilding Support Office, Peacebuilding Fund projects are under implementation in Burundi and Sierra Leone, using funds provided in 2006 under the country envelopes of US$ 35 million. As at May 2008, a total of US$ 27.9 million had been disbursed to 15 approved projects in Burundi in the following priority sectors: security sector, 46 per cent; democracy and good governance, 43.6 per cent; human rights, 7.9 per cent; and property and land issues, 2.5 per cent. In Sierra Leone, a total of US$ 15.7 million had been disbursed to 7 approved projects in the following priority sectors: justice and security, 64.5 per cent; youth employment and empowerment, 25.5 per cent; and democracy and good governance, 10 per cent.

62. In addition to Burundi and Sierra Leone, which were declared eligible for support from the Fund during the first session of the Commission, Guinea-Bissau received an initial allocation of US$ 6 million to tackle immediate peacebuilding priorities, in line with its interim priority plan. That approach will allow for subsequent funding in support of a comprehensive priority plan, which is to be aligned with the strategic framework for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau.

63. In an effort to improve upon the transparency of the Fund's operations and to enhance the understanding of the relationships between the Commission and the Fund, the Commission established the practice of quarterly briefings by the Peacebuilding Support Office in its informal meeting, in addition to regular briefings convened by the Peacebuilding Support Office to Peacebuilding Fund donors regarding the financial situation and performance of the Fund. Members of the Commission have been discussing the operations of the Fund on several occasions and have explored different approaches to improve upon the synergies between the Commission and the Fund. The two-tier approach devised for Guinea-Bissau is considered to be an important innovation in that regard and will ensure that the priority plan under the Fund will be better aligned with the strategic framework under discussion in the Commission. The Secretary-General will present a comprehensive report on the Fund's second year of operations to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

IV. Observations and the way forward

64. While it is recognized that progress has been achieved in its existing configurations, as presented in section II above, the evolving challenges before the Commission require additional and targeted efforts by its members, partners and

relevant actors within and outside the United Nations system. The Commission will chart the way forward in its engagement with the countries on its agenda and in further refining its role and added value.

A. Providing integrated strategies for peacebuilding

65. The Commission continued to provide sustained attention to the countries under its consideration and remained engaged in supporting national efforts in the areas of dialogue, reconciliation, capacity-building, institutional reforms, economic recovery and human rights. The interaction with the Commission further strengthened the notion of national ownership, mutual accountability and partnership of the international community, while encouraging dialogue among national stakeholders and international partners. The Commission intends to further enhance its standing by building on such positive accomplishments and by consolidating its efforts in the countries under its consideration. In so doing, the Commission will seek to minimize the risk of a lapse or a relapse into conflict in the countries under its consideration.

66. The concept of an Integrated Peacebuilding Strategy has proven to be a flexible and practical instrument for facilitating political dialogue, analysing the sources of conflict, enhancing coordination among key national and international actors, marshalling resources and monitoring progress. In that connection and in an effort to further enhance its effectiveness and efficiency, the Commission will, whenever necessary, consider further refining the Integrated Peacebuilding Strategy concept, as well as other options for future engagement. In that regard, the Integrated Peacebuilding Strategy could be tailored to a wide range of specific country situations and some common characteristics should ideally include the following elements: (a) a consultative process based on the principle of national ownership; (b) an integrated approach to ensure that political, security and development dimensions reinforce rather than undermine each other; (c) succinct identification and analysis of key peacebuilding priorities and commitments on the part of all stakeholders; (d) a nationally led monitoring and review mechanism on the basis of concrete, measurable and time-bound indicators to assess progress as well as setbacks towards agreed commitments; (e) coherence with existing national strategic frameworks, such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers; and (f) ways to support national capacity for peacebuilding and enhance aid effectiveness.

67. Throughout the drafting and implementation process of the Integrated Peacebuilding Strategy, the importance of the mapping exercise has been recognized by the Commission, particularly as a critical means to identify gaps in efforts to marshal and mobilize resources. The Commission, with the assistance of the Peacebuilding Support Office, will continue to conduct research on ongoing support for peacebuilding activities in the countries under its consideration. In that context, the Commission notes the need for the Secretariat to support the mapping exercise on peacebuilding activities in the countries under consideration, and also invites all stakeholders, especially the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions and other bilateral partners, particularly those who are actively engaged in the countries under consideration, to promptly provide relevant information to the Peacebuilding Support Office in that regard.

B. Marshalling resources and enhancing coordination

68. The Commission acknowledged the critical importance of official development assistance, trade and investment in post-conflict countries. The Commission is particularly encouraged that several bilateral partners represented on the Commission have increased their commitments towards countries under consideration or initiated a new engagement. The Commission will continue to develop methods for mobilizing international and domestic resources and related instruments, such as the early mapping exercise and systematic monitoring and tracking mechanisms.

69. The Commission has noted that resources need to be utilized in a complementary manner, including domestic and external, public and private, financial and non-financial resources, and need to be obtained from traditional as well as emerging donors. In early 2008, the Organizational Committee considered the role of the private sector in peacebuilding and underscored its potential role in providing both financial and non-financial support, which has been further examined by the task force on the private sector. Those issues were also discussed in the context of meetings of the country-specific configurations. The Commission will also strengthen its involvement in the mobilization of non-financial resources, such as technical assistance and capacity-building for Governments and other stakeholders.

70. The Commission will strengthen its ongoing cooperation with the World Bank, IMF, the regional development banks and regional or subregional organizations, at both the leadership and the working levels, in addressing the specific needs of countries under its consideration by building on existing expertise within the United Nations and other relevant organizations.

71. The Commission has supported the use of the Peacebuilding Fund as a catalytic tool to ensure the immediate release of resources to launch peacebuilding activities and the availability of appropriate financing for recovery in countries under consideration. In that regard, the Commission will continue to make further efforts to create closer strategic ties between its engagements and the use of the Fund. The Commission recognizes the importance of strengthening the capacity of the countries under consideration and the United Nations presence on the ground for the effective utilization of the Fund. At the same time, it is recognized that the Peacebuilding Fund can only address a fraction of existing requirements; that additional resources are needed to effectively support national peacebuilding efforts; and that innovative approaches will be required to link the initial catalytic financial outlay provided through the Peacebuilding Fund with more sustained and significantly larger funding sources. The Commission will explore appropriate ways to engage in the General Assembly's review of the terms of reference of the Fund.

72. Policy coherence and coordination remain key challenges at the country level, between international and domestic actors, among departments, ministries and diplomatic representations of Member States, and within the United Nations system. With its diverse composition and unique convening capacity, the Commission will promote and facilitate coordination at all levels.

C. Developing best practices

73. The Working Group on Lessons Learned has gained valuable expertise in managing peacebuilding knowledge through a variety of thematic discussions. The Commission will further strengthen efforts to develop best practices by forging better synergies and coherence among its different configurations as well as other external actors.

74. Looking ahead, there is a need to reflect on the diversity of views as to the precise characteristics and principles of, and requirements for, effective peacebuilding; the recognition of the uniqueness of some peacebuilding experiences in particular contexts; and the acknowledgement that peacebuilding requires skilful analysis and an appreciation of local history and norms.

D. Deepening strategy and policy discussions on peacebuilding

75. The Commission's first informal ambassadorial-level retreat held on 18 and 19 January 2008 offered an invaluable opportunity for an in-depth discussion on the added value of the Commission in addressing peacebuilding challenges and gaps in the overall peace continuum by fulfilling its key mandate and for developing a common understanding on the way forward at the conceptual, methodological and strategic levels. The Commission will consider organizing an annual informal retreat to further elaborate on strategic issues at future sessions.

76. The Organizational Committee, with its unique composition and standing representation on all country-specific configurations, is considered to be a custodian of the Commission's implementation of its mandate. The Commission intends to continue the strategy and policy discussion of peacebuilding in order to further strengthen its capacity to implement its mandates and its impact on the ground, as well as to provide a forum to discuss general peacebuilding issues.

E. Enhancing collaboration and outreach

77. Regular interaction with the principal organs of the United Nations has been an essential element for raising awareness of the work of the Commission, ensuring support from those organs and coordinating with their respective work programmes. The Chairperson of the Commission will continue to hold regular meetings with the Presidents of the principal organs and the Secretary-General in order to enable the Commission to explore substantive collaboration. In that regard, the Chairperson of the Commission will keep members of the Organizational Committee well informed. The General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General may wish to consider taking appropriate actions, within their own competence and responsibilities, to further advocate for the work of the Commission, particularly the recommendations contained in the Integrated Peacebuilding Strategies.

78. The Chairs of the Commission's country-specific configurations have been actively engaged in outreach efforts. In that context, the Commission will continue to promote the implementation of Integrated Peacebuilding Strategies and seek the continued support of all relevant actors to that effect.

79. Interactive collaboration remains essential for advancing the work of the Commission. In order to enhance its convening role, the Commission will encourage active inputs from Member States, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, and seek to more widely disseminate the outcome of its work and the lessons learned in that respect, including through its website, the Peacebuilding Community of Practice and the Peacebuilding Initiative project of the Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. Those three initiatives represent important communication means to spread the work of the Commission and will strengthen the awareness of current and potential future stakeholders concerning the situation in the countries placed on the Commission's agenda.

80. The awareness of the work of the Commission has significantly improved during the reporting period both in the countries under consideration and also in capitals of Member States, the headquarters of international and regional organizations and among civil society and academia. The initiatives of all stakeholders to organize peacebuilding-related events, such as seminars, symposiums and panel discussions, have further contributed to that achievement. Events organized by the Governments of Member States are particularly important in that regard because they provide opportunities to advocate for peacebuilding and the work of the Commission and foster a national dialogue on how the country concerned could best contribute to the peacebuilding effort. In that context, the Commission encourages all stakeholders to continue supporting its advocacy.

F. Organizational matter

81. The allocation of the seats among the regional groups for the election of the members of the Organizational Committee in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had not been agreed upon before the conclusion of the second session of the Commission, which led to the decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on 20 June 2008. The Commission expresses its hope that the Member States will soon reach a consensus on the allocation of the seats among the regional groups for the election of the members of the Organizational Committee.

V. Conclusions

82. During its second session, the Commission has consolidated its achievements in Burundi and Sierra Leone and instituted a joint monitoring and tracking mechanism, which will allow it to regularly review progress achieved in the two countries. The Commission's new engagement with Guinea-Bissau has enabled it to apply some of the lessons learned in the first two countries and to build some innovations into the Guinea-Bissau process, such as the dispatching of a field mission by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, immediately following the referral of the country and the adoption of a two-track approach on the use of the Peacebuilding Fund. Such initiatives have been observed in all configurations and they demonstrate the Commission's ability to provide a flexible and appropriate response as the situation may warrant.

83. As the work of the Commission continues to evolve, it needs to retain this capacity to innovate and to adapt its working methods, as may be necessary,

including the use of advanced information technologies. This is particularly relevant in the light of the fact that the Commission in the future will likely consider additional countries. In further developing the tools for its engagement with countries, gathering best practices and lessons learned on peacebuilding and deepening the strategy and policy discussion on peacebuilding, the Commission will ensure its continued contribution to the overall peacebuilding efforts in the countries under its consideration and the international community at large.

Annex I

Membership of the Organizational Committee and its Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone configurations

Organizational Committee

23 June 2007-22 June 2008

Angola

Bangladesh

Belgium

Brazil (*Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration*)

Burundi

Chile

China

Czech Republic

Egypt

El Salvador (*Vice-Chairperson*)

Fiji

France

Georgia

Germany

Ghana (*Vice-Chairperson*)

Guinea-Bissau

India

Indonesia

Italy

Jamaica

Japan (*Chairperson*)

Luxembourg

Netherlands (*Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration*)

Nigeria

Norway (*Chair of the Burundi configuration*)

Pakistan

Russian Federation

South Africa

Sri Lanka

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

United States of America

Additional members of the Burundi configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

Canada

Croatia

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Denmark

Kenya

Nepal

Rwanda

Uganda

United Republic of Tanzania

African Development Bank

African Union

East African Economic Community

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Community of Central African States

Executive Representative of the Secretary-General

Inter-Parliamentary Union

Organisation internationale de la francophonie

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region

Additional members of the Guinea-Bissau configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

Benin

Burkina Faso

Cape Verde

Gambia

Guinea

Mexico

Mozambique

Niger

Portugal

Sao Tome and Principe

Senegal

Spain

Timor-Leste

African Development Bank

African Union

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

Economic Community of West African States

Organisation internationale de la francophonie

Representative of the Secretary-General

Union économique et monétaire ouest africaine

United Nations Development Programme

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Additional members of the Sierra Leone configuration (in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

Burkina Faso

Guinea

Ireland

Liberia

Sierra Leone

Sweden

African Development Bank

African Union

Central Bank of West African States

Commonwealth

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Community of West African States

Executive Representative of the Secretary-General

Mano River Union

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa

Participants in all meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission (in accordance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005))

International Monetary Fund

World Bank

European Community

Organization of the Islamic Conference

Annex II

Chronology of the work of the Organizational Committee

Formal meetings*

2007

27 June

Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons; adoption of the provisional calendar of meetings for the period July to December 2007

16 July

Adoption of the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its first session (A/62/137-S/2007/458)

12 September

Election of the Chairperson

18 October

The question of financing field missions of the Peacebuilding Commission

19 December

Letter dated 11 December 2007 from the President of the Security Council to the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission (on the referral of Guinea-Bissau) (A/62/736-S/2007/744)

2008

12 June

Letter dated 30 May 2008 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission (on the referral of the Central African Republic) (A/62/864-S/2008/383)

19 and 23 June

Adoption of the annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC/2/OC/L.2), as revised

* The agenda and summary record of formal meetings are available on the website of the Commission (www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding).

Informal meetings

2007

10 September

Election of the Chairperson

16 October

The General Assembly joint debate on 10 October and the Security Council debate on 17 October; points to be considered for adding a new country to the Peacebuilding Commission agenda; modality and topics of possible thematic discussion/discussions; strengthening the relationship with the international financial institutions; the question of financing field missions of the Peacebuilding Commission; the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

19 November

Points to be considered for adding new countries to the Peacebuilding Commission agenda, and strengthening the relationship with the referral bodies; strategy and policy discussion in the Peacebuilding Commission

17 December

Peacebuilding Commission retreat; informal Peacebuilding Fund briefing; briefing on the theme "Measuring peace consolidation and supporting transition", presented by Richard Caplan

19 December

Consultations on the referral of Guinea-Bissau

2008

16 January

Peacebuilding Commission retreat; Guinea-Bissau configuration

19 February

Strategy and policy discussion on the theme "The role of the private sector in peacebuilding: contribution by the Peacebuilding Commission"

24 March

Harmonization of Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund activities

17 April

Briefing by Saherwork Zawdy, Chairperson of the African Union Peace and Security Council

13 May

Strategy and policy discussion on the theme "Forging strategic synergies for peacebuilding: the role of the Peacebuilding Commission"; introduction of the draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its first session

2 June

Informal adoption of the second Peacebuilding Commission annual report

12 June

Consultations on the referral of the Central African Republic

19 June

High-level briefing by the Chairperson of the Forum of African Former Heads of State and Government on "Peacebuilding towards the construction of capable States in Africa"; report from the task force on the private sector; report from the Working Group on Lessons Learned; consideration of the election of the Chairperson and other officials

Annex III

Chronology of the work of the Burundi configuration

Formal meetings*

2007

19 September

Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission following the report of the Chair of Burundi configuration (PBC/2/BDI/2)

5 December

Adoption of the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism for the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi (PBC/2/BDI/4)

2008

20 March

Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the situation in Burundi (PBC/2/BDI/7)

23 June

Biannual review of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi

Informal meetings

2007

19 July

Discussion on the calendar of work and have initial exchange

2 August

Informal discussion of the situation in Burundi

13 August

Briefing from Burundi on the efforts of the African Union, European Union, United Nations and regional actors in response to the current political situation in the country

* The agenda and summary record of formal meetings are available on the website of the Commission (www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding).

22 August

Discussion of the development of the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism for the Burundi Strategic Framework

14 September

Conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission following the report of the Chair of the Burundi configuration

3 October

Update on the development of the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism in Burundi and on the United Nations technical assistance mission to the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi

18 October

Update on the development of the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism in Burundi

6 November

Update on the development of the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism in Burundi

15 November

Update on the development of the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism in Burundi

21 November

Update on the development of the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism in Burundi

2008

6 February

Update on current peacebuilding issues as identified in the Strategic Framework for Burundi

29 February

Briefing on the outcome of the meeting of Special Representatives and Special Envoys on Burundi, held in Cape Town on 22 and 23 February 2008

9 April

Discussion on the arrangements for the Peacebuilding Commission's field visit to Burundi

23 April

Discussion on the recent developments in Burundi

30 April

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its field visit to Burundi

8 May

Discussion of the arrangements for the Peacebuilding Commission's field visit to Burundi

27 May

Discussion of sustainable solutions to land issues in Burundi

16 June

Informal briefing by non-governmental organizations

Annex IV

Chronology of the work of the Sierra Leone configuration

Formal meetings*

2007

12 December

Adoption of the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework (PBC/2/SLE/1)

2008

19 May

High-level stakeholders consultation on the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework (see PBC/2/SLE/5)

19 June

Biannual review of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

Informal meetings

2007

25 July

Preparations for the national elections

17 August

Debriefing on the presidential elections and preparations for the run-off elections

20 September

Final meeting on the elections

4 October

Preparations for the Chair's visit to Sierra Leone

19 October

Report back from the Chair's visit to Sierra Leone

30 October

Meeting on the draft Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

* The agenda and summary record of formal meetings are available on the website of the Commission (www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding).

7 November

Meeting on the draft Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

13 November

Thematic meeting on the energy sector development

20 November

Meeting on the draft Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

27 November

Meeting on the draft Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework

2008

14 February

Meeting on the implementation of the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework focusing on local council elections and the energy sector development

18 March

Debriefing on the Chair's advocacy and resource mobilization visits to Europe and Washington, D.C.

29 April

Debriefing on the Chair's visit to Sierra Leone

30 May

Preparations for the Peacebuilding Commission's field visit to Sierra Leone

17 June

Informal briefing by non-governmental organizations

Annex V

Chronology of the work of the Guinea-Bissau configuration

Formal meetings*

2008

21 January

First meeting of the Guinea-Bissau configuration and discussion of the indicative plan of work

20 February

Presentation by the Government of Guinea-Bissau of its priorities for peacebuilding

Informal meetings

2008

5 February

Briefing on the Chair's visit to Guinea-Bissau

13 February

Peacebuilding Support Office presentation on mapping of resources in Guinea-Bissau

27 February

Preliminary discussion on the draft Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau

14 March

Discussion on the background paper on the situation in Guinea-Bissau

2 April

Discussion on the programme of work; Peacebuilding Support Office briefing on the Peacebuilding Framework for Guinea-Bissau

23 April

Exchange of views with the Secretary-General of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

* The agenda and summary record of formal meetings are available on the website of the Commission (www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding).

30 April

Discussion of the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its field visit to Guinea-Bissau

7 May

Thematic discussion of the challenges linked to the upcoming legislative elections in Guinea-Bissau

14 May

Thematic discussion of the challenges linked to the public administration reform and measures to reactivate the economy

28 May

Thematic discussion of the challenges linked to combating drug trafficking and strengthening of the justice sector

11 June

Social issues, including youth employment and vocational training; update on ongoing preparations for the upcoming legislative elections

18 June

Security sector reform and rule of law

Annex VI

Chronology of the work of the Working Group on Lessons Learned

2007

19 September

Strategic frameworks

8 November

Fiscal capacities in post-conflict countries

13 December

Local governance and decentralization in post-war contexts

2008

29 January

Gender and peacebuilding: enhancing women's participation

26 February

Justice in times of transition

13 March

Comparative lessons learned from addressing internal displacement in peacebuilding

8 May

Environment, conflict and peacebuilding

12 June

Review of thematic discussions held by the Working Group

United Nations S/2008/418

Security Council

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24 June 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 20 June 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you on behalf of Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland (the "S-5" group).

As you are aware, the "S-5" group has taken a particular interest in the issue of the working methods of the Security Council. The members of the group therefore welcomed the note by the President of the Council on this issue (S/2006/507) as a significant step in the process of improving the working methods of the Council.

Given the importance of this topic, we would appreciate an exchange of views on both the implementation of the measures contained in the note by the President and on possible additional measures that would benefit the Security Council in carrying out its mandate. Taking into consideration the interest of the membership as a whole, we ask the Council to convene a meeting on this topic and to invite all interested non-members to participate.

We would be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Peter **Maurer**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-39813 (E) 250608

United Nations A/62/889–S/2008/419

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
24 June 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 10
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 17 June 2008 from the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 30 May 2008, addressed to me in my capacity as Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, in which you conveyed the invitation of the Security Council to the Commission to provide advice on the situation in the Central African Republic.

I am pleased to inform you that, at a meeting held on 12 June 2008, the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission agreed to place the Central African Republic on the Commission agenda. The Commission also agreed to establish a country-specific configuration, to be chaired by Jan Grauls, the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, to assist the Central African Republic in its peacebuilding efforts.

The Commission took note of the request of the Security Council and will establish, in close contact with the authorities of the Central African Republic, the priorities and programme of work of the Central African Republic configuration, mindful of the need to develop an integrated strategic approach to meet the challenges of peacebuilding in the country.

The Commission looks forward to informing you of its preliminary findings as soon as possible and to keeping you informed of progress on its consideration of the situation in the Central African Republic, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005).

(*Signed*) Yukio **Takasu**
Chairperson
Peacebuilding Commission

08-39845 (E) 260608